



**UNITED NATIONS
MULTI-PARTNER
TRUST FUND**

Reconciliation Stabilization Resilience

Area Based Programming (ABP) Koch County, Unity State

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY PROJECT DOCUMENT

RSRTF PROJECT CODE:	RSRTF21A2-ABPKOCH2
MPTFO PROJECT PILLAR ASSIGNMENT:	RSR
GRANT RECIPIENT ORGANISATION(S):	UNDP (Acting as MA on behalf of World Relief NGO consortium) UNMISS (PTR, CAD, HRD, RoLAS, UNPOL)
PARTICIPATING <u>RECIPIENT</u> ORGS.:	CARE, Mercy Corps, 1 NNGO (TBD)
PROJECT TITLE:	Restoring Peaceful Coexistence for Better Livelihoods in Koch County Phase II
LOCATION:	Unity State: (1) Koch County (Kochlual, Jaak, Boaw, Ngony, Norbor, Gany and Pakur); (2) Mayendit County (Thaker and Tharjiath payams); (3) Guit County (Kuach and Kedet payams); and (4) Rubkona County (Nhialdiu, and Pakur payams) and (5) Mayom County (Wangkiey and Buoth Payams)
RELEVANT RSRTF OUTCOME(S):	<p>RSRTF Outcome 1: Individuals, particularly children and women, are facing less violence at the community and local level.</p> <p>RSRTF Outcome 2: Communities have effective mechanisms in place that meaningfully include women and youth to resolve conflicts peacefully.</p> <p>RSRTF Outcome 3: Justice sector actors are more effectively delivering justice, even in areas with previously limited or no judicial infrastructure.</p> <p>RSRTF Outcome 4: Communities, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups, are empowered and increasingly able to participate in local and broader political, peace and security processes.</p> <p>RSRTF Outcome 5: Community resilience is strengthened through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>RSRTF Outcome 6: Reconciled communities have increased access to equitable and reliable basic services and reduced humanitarian aid dependency.</p>
UNCF PRIORITY AREA(S) THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO:	PRIORITY AREA I: BUILDING PEACE AND STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

PRIORITY AREA II: IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND RECOVERING LOCAL ECONOMIES

PRIORITY AREA III: STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SERVICES

PRIORITY AREA IV: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH

PLANNED PROGRAMME DURATION:

24 Months

START DATE:

December 1, 2021

END DATE:

November 30, 2023

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The goal of Koch ABP Phase II is to reduce conflict and violence and create conditions for building resilience. To achieve this, Phase II will build on and enhance gains made in Phase I. As noted in the end line survey report of Phase I, levels of physical violence have declined with a growing confidence in the structures and mechanisms established to prevent conflicts and enhance peaceful co-existence within the community. There is a growing confidence in peace committees and chief's courts as conflict resolution mechanisms. Similarly, great efforts were also made in Phase I to build community resilience towards sustainable livelihoods which have resulted in noticeable increase in access to finance and improvements in the food security situation.

In spite of these noticeable achievements, there is a decline in perceptions of safety and security as noted in the end line survey report of Phase I. This decline in perceptions of safety security is in spite of decrease in physical violence, indicating a fragile context resulting from possible poor government-community relationship as well as weaknesses within the judicial system and rule of law. Lessons learnt in Phase I reveal that cross-border violence with neighbouring counties are key parts of the violence experienced by people in Koch. Similarly, inclusion of youth in cattle camps and women associated with armed groups can reduce conflict and create conditions for building resilience.

Recent developments provide both challenges and opportunities to foster peaceful co-existence and stabilization in Koch. The increase in returns to Koch could lead to violence due to competition over limited opportunities, resources, and services. The reopening of the oil company creates a pull factor which could further exacerbate competition over limited opportunities. The signing of R-ARCSS, the formation of the RTGoNU and appointment of State Governors and County Commissioners have created relative calm and some system of accountability which are opportunities for institutionalization of rule of law and stabilization.

The RSRTF ABP Koch Phase II project will therefore build in Phase I gains, explore existing opportunities to enhance and sustain efforts made towards conflict resolution and building resilience.

PROGRAMME SIGNATURES

RECIPIENT ORGANISATION(S):

MANAGING DIRECTOR (if applicable):

Abiyot Kitaw Mulugeta, World Relief Country Director

Samuel Doe, UNDP South Sudan Representative

Date: 25-11-2021

Date: 25-11-2021

Nicholas Haysom, SRSG, UNMISS

Meshack

Date: 24 November 2021

Date: 24th NOVEMBER 2021

FUND SECRETARIAT:

PROGRAMME MANAGER CONTACT DETAILS:

Charlotte Ashley, Fund

Abiyot Mulugeta, Country Director, South Sudan

Date: 24 November 2021

Phone: +211-922-400-071; Email: KABiyot@wr.org

1. UNDP NGO MANAGING AGENT ALLOCATION BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Staff and other personnel costs	
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	
4. Contractual Services	77,903.43
5. Travel	
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts ¹	7,790,343.06
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	
Sub-Total Project Costs	
8. Indirect support costs	550,777.25
PROJECT TOTAL	\$8,419,023.74

2. UNMISS ALLOCATION BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Staff and other personnel costs	447,200
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	24,000
4. Contractual Services	178,442
5. Travel	61,769
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	58,606
Sub-Total Project Costs	770,017
8. Indirect support costs	53,901.19
PROJECT TOTAL	823,918.19

TOTAL RSRTF ALLOCATION:	9,242,941.93
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¹ Represents the total funds to be disburse to World Relief NGO detailed in table 3 below

NGO CONSORTIUM PROGRAMME BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Staff and other personnel costs	\$ 1,620, 873
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 1,058,105
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	\$ 143,000
4. Contractual Services	-
5. Travel	\$ 276,200
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ 4,005,342
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	\$ 177,174
Sub-Total Project Costs	\$8,104,612
8. Indirect support costs	\$509,649
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 7,790,343

1. CONTEXT ANALYSIS:

The consortium began implementing the “Restoring Peaceful Coexistence for Better Livelihoods in Koch” RSRTF Area-Based Programme (ABP) in August 2019, a year after the signing of the “Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflicts in South Sudan” (R-ARCSS). R-ARCSS brought together the main warring parties including the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Government (IG), the SPLM In-Opposition (IO) and eight other parties to a shared governance system known as the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU). Efforts made under ABP Phase I have resulted in tremendous results. The project end line survey report notes a decrease in physical violence. However, the same report indicates that the community perception of safety has decreased at September 2021 compared to August 2019 when the project started. There are still various drivers of conflicts which have continued to perpetuate violence in Koch. The organized forces including the police as well as armed youths associated with SPLA-OI are noted as key drivers of violence in the county. Cattle raiding has continued unabated even after the signing of R-ARCSS. Cattle raids, initially a cultural event has taken on a larger scale as bride price has continued to increase. Raids are viewed as an alternative and faster way to accumulate cattle which are still considered as an important measure of wealth among the communities in Koch and bordering counties. Cattle raids may still intensify as communities try to regain their livelihoods. The prevalence of small arms has increased stakes in cattle raiding making it a very violent practice which often results in deaths. The cultural practices of blood feuds have also risen as members of clans and communities who have lost relatives during these cattle raids engage in revenge killings to revenge for their slain kins. Many of these cattle raiding and revenge dynamics are shaped by and entangled with local politics and go across county lines, particularly in the neighboring counties of Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Mayendit. Political influences within these cross-border counties pitied counties against each other before the signing of the peace agreement. These influences resulted in political conflicts that have continued to manifest either as cross-border revenge killings and cattle raids.

The 2018, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan and the subsequent formation of the R-Transitional Government of National Unity came with optimism for peace in the Country. While there were

serious offensives from Koch in early 2018, since the signing of R-ARCSS, there has been a significant reduction in direct violent conflict between the SPLA-IG and the SPLA-IO in Koch. However, at a national level, very little has been achieved in the implementation of the R-ARCSS. The reunification of forces at national, state and county level has not been implemented to date. Before the signing of the R-ARCSS, Koch County was divided into two with some sections under the control of SPLA-IG forces and other sections under the control of SPLA-IO forces. These two factions have more or less maintained their positions. In February 2020, when the parties to the conflict agreed to revert to the 10 states status, Leich County also reverted to the legacy Koch County. After reverting to legacy Koch County in February 2020, an IG Commissioner was appointed. The appointment of a Commissioner for Koch County brought stability in the administration and allowed easier coordination with UN and humanitarian partners. The new commissioner has been active in working with partners. Since August 2021, the Office has been stable and the Consortium has good relationships and trust with the County leadership. This has increased buy-in and support toward the activities of “Restoring Peaceful Co-existence for Better Livelihoods in Koch”. The Commissioner and/or his representative attends the monthly Area Reference Group (ARG) meeting. This momentum needs to be accelerated with enhanced capacity, good governance and leadership.

However, the SPLA-IO in Koch still has mistrust and resentment concerning the SPLA-IG commissioner, based on their previous experiences, and therefore, Koch remains divided between SPLA-IG and SPLA-IO governed areas. This has brought significant tensions including over the jurisdiction of chiefs. In interviews in Koch in October 2021, people highlighted how these tensions contribute to the decreased perceptions of safety and security despite the lack of actual armed violence. Furthermore, the militarized methods of governance in the recent past and in the last year, including through the burning of villages by government authorities, has undermined some communities’ and chiefs’ trust in the local government’s ability to guarantee their safety. There is currently a fragile community-local government relationship.

The formation of R-TGoNU came with optimism for peace in the Country. In March 2021, the Protection of Civilian (POC) site in Bentiu was converted into an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp as the established R-TGoNU was expected to continue providing services to the affected population. The conversion of PoC into IDP camp has come with reduced services as the R-TGoNU is not yet able to provide these services, including security. The reduction in services has pushed IDPs to seek for services elsewhere and most of them have had to return to their places of origin. Most of the IDPs in Bentiu IDP camp were from Koch. With optimism of peace at their place of origin and the need to reestablish their livelihoods, many have been returning to Koch. The signing of R-ARCSS and formation of R-TGoNU also witnessed government efforts to revamp and enhance revenue sources which had been undermined by the fighting since 2013. The Tharjiath Oil field was reopened in 2020 and has provided some hope of employment especially for the youth. This has continued to pull the youth back into Koch. These push and pull factors have had a net effect of influx of returns into Koch. The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission coordinator in Koch has recorded a total of 17, 946 individuals returning to Koch between January 2020 and June 2021. These returns have had to share resources with hosts who remained the area. The sharing of scarce resources is a potential source of conflicts if not well managed, especially as related to Housing, Land and Property concerns.

The appointment of the County Commissioner as well as the establishment of the Temporary Operating Base (ToB) by UNMISS has brought some stability in Koch. The end line report notes a general decline in physical violence within Koch. Similarly, the establishment and capacity building of peace committees has been instrumental in peaceful resolution of conflicts in the county. The organization and support provided to the chiefs and chiefs courts has enabled them to continue to dispense justice in the absence of formal court system. The evaluation report notes an increase in trust by the community in the courts to address conflicts. Between August 2019 to June 2021, 123 land disputes² had been reported and solved at local community level with support of Peace Committees. Phase I has also helped to introduce the community to elements of a market economy through the Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), as well as vocational skills. This has provided alternative sources of livelihood and continued to build community resilience towards conflicts.

² Project monitoring data Quarter 2 Report, July 2021

The humanitarian situation in Koch however remains unpredictable. The end line survey carried out by World Relief in September 2021 showed that commodity prices had remained stable³. The survey further revealed that 75% of the households had an acceptable food consumption compared to 51% reported at baseline in November 2019.⁴ The main source of food for these respondents was from their own production and from the General Food Distribution from the World Food Programme (WFP). A high dependence on external sources of food undermines stability in food security. Similarly, Koch has experienced unprecedented levels of flooding in 2021 which has undermined the community assets including farms on which the community depends for food production. The local market and economy have been disrupted by these floods as access roads have been rendered impassable.

2. PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The end line survey's use of locally informed measures of safety and security highlighted a safety and security paradox; perceived safety had gone down by the 2021 end line compared to the 2019 baseline while violent incidents decreased over the same period. During interviews in Koch in October 2021, people in Koch partly explained this paradox based on fears about the current commissioner. Between 2015 – 2018, the commissioner had orchestrated significant violent offensives including against civilians. In 2021, he was also associated with violent attacks on villages in which property was destroyed. Although, in interviews, people commented that direct violence attributed to the commissioner had significantly reduced, people still judged the context based on past experiences and were tentative about their current safety.

In connection to this, people also highlighted the simmering tension between SPLA-IO and SPLA-IG actors. The general failure to implement the R-ARCSS has only exacerbated these tensions. For those living in SPLA-IO governed areas, the unilateral decisions of the local government in SPLA-IG areas was increasing their sense of insecurity. These tensions have made it difficult to renegotiate a unified local justice system that can tackle all offenses. This lack of formal justice has encouraged self-help justice in the form of violent revenge and violent, retaliatory cattle raids.

These tensions in governance could easily undermine efforts made towards reconciliation and stabilization. Mechanisms and structures put in place in Phase I need to be strengthened and continued in Phase II to enable them to make an impact. Peace committees need to be capacitated to as a mechanism for alternative conflict resolution. In order to enhance access to justice in Phase I, research on law in Koch was conducted to understand the legal situation and to allow nuanced programming. The research highlighted how chiefs' courts had long histories (dating back over a century) of being part of the government (or rebel groups)'s provision of justice and stability. For the majority of the last decades, they had been the only justice provision in Koch during war and displacement the chiefs' courts have continued to play a key role in settling tensions and feuds. At the same time, chiefs are still learning to fit into the new legal environment of South Sudan and negotiations with new justice systems can cause confusion and a lack of access to justice.

Confidence in the police and courts respectively in addressing conflicts has grown over the two years period of Phase I. However, the number of people seeking out services in courts and from police is still low due to the low capacity of these institutions. Police and armed groups have been key perpetrators of violence, especially against women and children. The police and the chiefs have not been adequately trained or equipped. They also lack operational space to carry out their duties. Chiefs' courts have continued to dispense justice in the absence of formal courts. The lack of formal justice system, if not addressed, will erode the confidence being built in the police and the chief courts and therefore return to violence as the only available conflict resolution option.

³ South Sudan –Monthly Market Prices, August 2021

⁴ KOCH ABP Phase I Endline Survey Report, September 2021

There is need to implement more affirmative approach in conflict resolution and stabilization. Women are always objects of violence where violence is meted against women either as revenge or to indirectly inflict pain to men when men cannot be physically reached. Women are abducted, raped, beaten and sometimes killed in the process. In a highly patriarchal community like Koch, gender violence is systemized. Girls are not accorded similar opportunity as boys. Early marriages are common which not only exposes these girls to health challenges at delivery but also deny them a chance in school and cannot eventually gain meaningful employment. There is therefore urgency to include and empower women as agents of reconciliation and resilience building. This will not only involve reaching out to support women but also target men and make them advocates and defenders of gender rights.

Despite efforts made in previous interventions to include all actors, youth in cattle camps were excluded from and pose a threat to peaceful mechanisms initiated. Youth in cattle camps have been an accessible group to mobilize and influence to perpetuate acts of violence through cattle raids and revenge killings. They are also vulnerable and will continue to be recruitment into organised forces if efforts are not made to reduce their vulnerability by providing them with alternative livelihood sources.

Lessons from Phase I showed that violence is perpetuated by actors from counties bordering Koch, including Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Mayendit however programme activities were previously limited to county boundaries and excluded cross border dynamics. Phase II has included specific hotspot Payam within the cross border counties to curb conflicts in these areas and prevent the same from destabilizing gains being made within Koch.

Population movement has resulted in an increase in land disputes in Koch. Land disputes are exacerbated by confusion and multiplicity of land regimes. Reduction in services within the Bentiu IDP camp has pushed IDPs to return to their locations of origin. Increase in returns could also lead to violence due to competition over limited opportunities, resources and services. The reopening of the oil company has created a pull factor attracting more youth into Koch which could further exacerbate competition over limited opportunities. Phase II includes specific activities to mitigate disputes related to HLP.

Efforts made in Phase I to provide secondary education were not very successful because of challenges inherent within the societal structure. Protracted violence has left the education system in Koch without value as it provides no means to career progression. Youth do not value education as there are no role models to emulate. Joining the armed groups or cattle camps is a more lucrative opportunity for the youth as there is more hope towards economic gains than engaging in education. It is therefore important that an alternative approach is identified that will encourage youth to pursue education.

Recent increase in environmental shocks undermine coping capacities and risk return to violence. Koch and South Sudan in general has experienced unprecedented flooding in the last two years. Coping strategies established in Phase I including establishment of dykes, embankments and roads have been destroyed and therefore not able to support access to services as well as livelihood opportunities. Reduced access to services and livelihood opportunities is a recipe for violence. Phase II proposes to strengthen the community's coping strategy and enhance resilience to shocks.

Phase I witnessed limited intentional integration of interventions undertaken by each agency and thus limiting overall impact. The role of the management structure was not clear and the Areas Reference Group (ARG) did not have sufficient capacity and clarity to perform its role. Phase II proposes to leverage strengths and capacities of individual partners on specific interventions at the same time enhance integration and coordination mechanism to effectively realize the project goal.

3. RATIONALE FOR A SECOND PHASE OF PROGRAMMING:

“The conflict has destroyed all categories of people. The RSRTF project has built structures including schools and teaching women in business to earn money. This is motivating IDPs to return. When we heard that it was ending, we started praying for it to be renewed”
(Deputy, RRC Executive Director)

Phase I of this project demonstrated that RSRTF approach is yielding positive result in Koch. Various interventions were established in Phase I to foster peace building and reconciliation. These interventions included establishment and capacity building to peace committees, support for informal judicial systems and dialogue mechanisms to address conflicts. These structures and mechanisms have continued to show some level of success as more residents have continued to seek their services in conflict resolution. The end line survey report also shows a decline in actual incidences of physical violence. However, the same report indicates a decline in a perception of safety among the residents of Koch. There were also resilience building efforts in Phase I focusing on building livelihoods and resource base to prevent communities from relapsing back into conflicts and violence over resources. Livelihood options provided included increased access to sources of finance through SHGs and VSLAs, training through Vocational Training Centres on various trades and skills. This has helped increase participation in economic livelihoods. Similarly, agricultural support through inputs and training in Phase I showed increase in own food production. Food consumption has significantly increased which is a measure of improvement in community resilience.

However, the two years of programming, which were also impacted by COVID, is a short time in which to realize transformational change. The expected outcomes are ambitious and will take time and sustained efforts to achieve institutional, cultural and behavioural change. For instance, the established peace committees need to be supported to institutionalize their processes. The chief's courts are still operating under customary laws which are still very patriarchal in nature and sometimes in conflict with human rights and the South Sudan constitution. Institutionalization of peace requires behavioural change from the community as well as capacity building of the formal judicial system and auxiliary actors including police and prisons to continue providing deterrence against involvement in violent acts. Sustaining resilience efforts, including agricultural and market interventions requires continuous engagement to build the right attitude and skills.

The successes made under Phase I need to be protected and enhanced towards lasting peace. In the event that R-ARCSS does not hold, likelihood of descending back into violence are high. Simmering tensions between SPLA-IO and SPLA-IG are likely to escalate into full blown fighting even at county level and roll back gains made towards peace and reconciliation in Koch. It is important that the established peace mechanisms and structures are strengthened and buttressed against political influence.

Lessons from Phase I also provide a basis to strengthen existing interventions. Women and youth are key agents in peace building. A greater inclusion of women and youth in reconciliation and peacebuilding efforts provides greater opportunity to strengthen and sustain these efforts. Providing women and youth with greater voice and participation in livelihoods options such as VSLAs/SHGs activities will enhance resilience actions that build cohesion between communities.

Phase I also illuminated gaps in the programme that need to be addressed to enhance the overall results. In Phase I, cross border dynamics were not taken into consideration. Violence being experienced in Koch is also perpetuated by actors across counties bordering Koch including Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Mayendit. Similarly, youth in cattle camps were not specifically targeted and have continued to be agents of violence in the county. The local governance structures including the County Commissioner, the Payam and Boma administrators, chiefs and village

elders are key agents of peace. There is therefore need to seek greater cooperation from these players and develop their capacity to take on greater role in the peace building process. Phase II will witness greater investment in the rule of law. This will target specifically the auxiliary arms of the court including the police and prison services. Enhancing the capacity of these institutions will not only deter violence but also enhance community confidence in peaceful conflict resolutions mechanisms.

During phase I increased returns have been documented. The optimism for peace and subsequent efforts to provide employment opportunities as well as unfavourable conditions within the IDP camp has led to increase in returns to Koch. While this was a goal of the programme the significant increase in returns has potential to ignite conflicts if not managed. Returns hoping to settle in their locations of origin may have to compete for resources with host communities resulting in conflicts especially associated with HLP. Phase II provides an opportunity to establish adequate HLP and dispute resolution mechanisms. Designed interventions under Phase II will also increase access to services and create viable livelihood opportunities.

There are changes in the context which present new opportunities that can be capitalized on to enhance the outcomes of the programme. The establishment of the ToB in Koch will enhance patrols by UNMISS/GHANBATT which will deter acts of violence and therefore provide greater opportunity for civic participation and governance. Similarly, the signing of the R-ARCSS, formation of RTGoNU and appointment of the CC establishes a more accountable governance system. Phase II will provide an opportunity for greater involvement of women and youth in issues of governance through CSO and as direct agents.

4. GENDER ANALYSIS & GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

Koch County continues to suffer from the impact of decades of violence, and the dramatic return to conflict in 2013 and 2016. This left the traditional social structures, norms and values of male domination to become more dominant, leading to adverse consequences on gender roles and relations. For instance, while men were increasingly involved in violence, women and girls were left to handle the burden of parenting roles and household responsibilities with little support. Yet they increasingly became vulnerable to violence, sexual abuse, rape, abduction, killings and exploitation. They are further left to deal with the trauma of the various forms of violence they have experienced.

Due to limited opportunities, girls are exploited and involved in practices which affects them negatively such as early and forced marriage, dropping out of school and unwanted pregnancies, making their lives more complicated. The boys on the other hand are deprived of their rights to education and the pursuit of a decent living. Many of them either end up engaged in violent activities or join disgruntled gang groups or cattle raiding which has further aggravated intercommunal violence. Other obstacles to gender equality include discriminatory and negative cultural practices that relegate women to the lowest echelons of society, including the old Nuer Customary Laws which are based on tradition. Meanwhile political elites impress upon the youth, especially boys, the notion that they are not yet ready to take on leadership roles as citizens.

The transitional constitution has amended South Sudanese legal gender frameworks including UNSCR 1325 and 2250 which have firmly established new rights for women and youth who are to be meaningfully involved in peace building and post-conflict recovery. However, these frameworks have failed to translate into opportunities that increase participation of women and youth in public life. Phase II will address these disparities through structural and behavioural change that encourages both men and women, boys and girls towards shaping and owning the future of South Sudan with values such as gender equality, peaceful coexistence and democracy.

In southern Unity State, early marriages have become an alternative source of livelihoods where girls are married at an early age for gifts or dowry and parents, both mothers and fathers, more readily give their daughters away in

marriage in exchange for financial or material gain. In this culture, the husband of their daughter is expected to provide in times of need and scarcity for his new extended family. However, this precludes the affected girls from continuing with their educations, which would further prohibit them from gaining skills to engage in livelihoods activities. Most of these marriages happen between an underage girl and an elderly man who has enough cows to pay for the dowry. This practice of early marriage puts pressure on the young men to amass cows for a future marriage. Without any source of livelihoods, to get cows for marriage, the young men resort to cattle raiding. This exacerbates a cycle of violence. During the end line survey 72% of the respondents noted that the highest form of Gender Based Violence resulted from instances of early child marriages. In Phase I, dialogues meetings were held on the issues of cattle raids, revenge killings, and forced child marriages. It has been agreed that the source of the vices lie in long held traditions and practices where boys are socialized to believe that after initiation into adulthood, they must prove their manhood and courage by undertaking daring activities such as raiding. In forced and early marriages, mothers are frequently involved and encourage their daughters to get married for the betterment of the family unit.

In Phase I, men were engaged on the issues of playing the role of as the perpetrators of violence against women in the forms of physical assault, sexual violence, reproduction coercion, emotional abuse and social economic neglect through the dialogues. In Phase II, “engaging men and boys” (EMB) will be introduced as an approach to deepen and strengthen engagement with men and boys, community leaders and influential stakeholders. This model seeks to embrace inclusion and participation of women in decision making processes.

Gender mainstreaming will be applied across all programme interventions. Activities are designed to mobilize, organize and engage different categories of communities around awareness creation, training and exposure on gender and human rights. Women and youth are deliberately targeted in the VSLA and SHGs as strategies to engage them. Men are also encouraged in learning new skills and trade being given to the beneficiaries. The participation of men in cookery will contribute to demystify the cultural gender stereotypes about men and cooking, promoting inclusion more options for household income for the families concerned. This strategy will be consolidated.

At the community level, the project will target community leaders, chiefs and other influencers to sensitize them on the rights of women and girls, men and boys to challenges harmful traditional and cultural practices that perpetuate violence and discrimination at household and community levels. Particularly the project will discourage retrogressive cultural practices including early child marriages which prohibit the child from continuing their education. Community protection mechanisms will strengthen the referral of survivors sexual and gender-based violence cases to formal judiciary. This is because they are most gross violation and serious crimes over which the Chiefs courts have no jurisdiction. Lobbying for judiciary services from Bentiu will be one of the issues that the consortium will undertake when liaison with state organs. Married girls and young men will be encouraged to go back to school through the “Second Chance Education” initiative.

Securing the HLP rights for women, particularly vulnerable women such as female headed households, will also be prioritized to address the gender inequality that exists in women's access to HLP rights given harmful social norms such as discriminatory land inheritance rights.

The project will also build on the gains made in Phase I on economic empowerment for women through the VSLAs. The VSLAs will continue to be supported with capacity building which will include trainings and equipping individuals towards a path of self-reliance.

5. THEORY OF CHANGE:

We believe that;

If we further strengthen and consolidate the conflict prevention structures, mechanisms and processes that were established during Phase I, such as peace committees, peace clubs in schools, community dialogue, and peacebuilding training; **then** incidences of violence will reduce, and social cohesion will enhance within Koch community, where drivers of conflict and violence are deep rooted,

And that;

If we strengthen the capacities of selected local community leaders as key people, including women, youth as well as County level government institutions in violence prevention; **then** peace building initiatives will be more sustainable as women and youth are key players in conflict prevention and mitigation.

We also believe that;

If we extend our conflict mitigation measures including dialogues and support peacebuilding structures like peace committees, into bordering counties of Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Mayendit, conflict mitigation measures including dialogues and support peacebuilding, **then** incidences of cross border conflict as well as incidences of cattle raiding affecting Koch County will reduce because these some of the violent conflicts are perpetuated from these bordering counties

..... plus **if** we reach out to youth within cattle camps as well as ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups and include them in peace building and livelihood initiatives and provide them with alternative livelihood opportunities, **then** we can dissuade them from engaging in conflict because they will have alternative sources of livelihood

We believe that;

If the we continue to strengthen the chiefs' courts through training and support, and that they continue to adjudicate cases in the absence of formal judicial system,

And that;

If the formal justice system is strengthened, together with auxiliary arms like the police and prison, and that if the referral pathway is enhanced including availability of mobile courts where cases of criminal nature and gross violation can be effectively adjudicated, **then** criminal cases will be reduced, **because** the community will have more confidence in the judiciary system and adopt nonviolent mechanisms in resolving conflicts and disputes in the absence of a formal national system.

We also believe that;

If HLP concerns are addressed through community sensitization, individual protection assistance, legal counselling and access to free legal service, **then** emerging HLP associated conflicts in relation to returnees and hosts, especially vulnerable women and youth, will be adequately addressed, and that this will promote harmony and peaceful co-existence, then more people will resettle in Koch.

We believe that:

If we diversify livelihoods through increased access to financial services, enhancing skills of the venerable groups including ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups,

And that;

If the youth are meaningfully engaged in building/rehabilitation of community assets such as markets, roads and dykes, and are supported to undertake economic enterprises, **then** vulnerability to be recruited back into violent

activities will be reduced **because** they will be able to earn income and will be less incentivized to participate in such activities.

We believe that;

If we invest more in secondary education by equipping the Bhang Secondary school, recruiting qualified teachers and motivating the teachers with financial incentives and training, and that if we strengthen primary education through the renovation of the Koch Girls and Norbor Primary Schools, and if we continue to sensitize the community to encourage youth of school-going-age to enroll in Secondary Education, **then** the opportunity for quality education will be available to returnee children, through which these children will be positively socialized, and received instruction on peaceful values through the peace clubs for peaceful co-existence, then these children will be less likely to engage in violent activities as they will have alternative career growth pathways.

6. INTERVENTION STRATEGY:

Outcome 1: Individuals, particularly children and women are facing less violence at the community and local level.

Outcome 1 is a cross-cutting outcome for this project. All project interventions have been designed to contribute to reduced violence and safer communities in Koch County and bordering Counties of Mayom, Guit, Rubkona and Mayendit, either by mediating conflict or by addressing the conflict issues including collective identity leading to revenge, cycle of revenge killing, rape, early marriages, land disputes and cattle raids from with Koch County and those emanating from the neighbors This outcome will also be achieved by tracking three outcome indicators listed below;

- Outcome Indicator 1a: Percentage of individual respondents reporting increased personal safety and security in the target area in previous 12 months (Standard).
- Outcome Indicator 1b: Number of violent incidents and related civilian casualties in Koch in 24 months. (Disaggregated by sex, age, location)
- Outcome Indicator 1c: Number of individuals displaced from Koch County due to conflict reduced in 24 months.

These outcome indicators will be achieved through five key outputs measured by the following output indicators;

- Number of ex-combatants integrated in social cohesion initiatives, disaggregated by age and gender
- Number of women associated with armed groups integrated in social cohesion initiatives, disaggregated by age
- Proportion of men in target communities who demonstrate attitudes more supportive of women's inclusion in political, social, and security processes in their communities
- Number of persons reached with sensitization messages disaggregated by age and gender
- Number of youths in cattle camps trained on nonviolence approaches.

The key strategic activities will include:

- Involvement of ex-combatants (youth) and women associated with armed groups in peacebuilding initiatives. This group will specifically be targeted through mobilization and sensitization activities integrated into community programmes such as dialogues, and alternative livelihoods opportunities.
- Target youth in five cattle camps for trust building and awareness creation on potential for personal growth and development. In this way, they can be incorporated into alternative livelihoods activities.
- Organize three "Youth Peace Work Camps" in Mirmir, Petpet and Bhang. The camps will bring together 100 youth, boys and girls, for five days working on a common community project, as they are trained and participate in sports and games. This will include exposing them to opportunities for alternative livelihoods such as vocational and business skills for earning income.

- Women and girls' empowerment will be enhanced through established structures, including faith-based groups like the Inter-Church Committee (ICC). ICC is the grassroots level of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). In its work for reconciliation and peace, ICC is guided by SSCC's "Action Plan for Peace" (APP).
- Localize commemoration of the international events below, guided by their themes for the day's activities will be organized. These days are climax days for which preparation and involvement of stakeholders begins at the launch of implementation. These days include the International Women's Day (March 8), Girl Child Day (October 11), Day of the African Child (June 16) and the International Day of Peace (September 21).

Outcome 2: Communities have effective mechanisms in place that meaningfully include women and youth to resolve conflicts peacefully.

This outcome is measured under three indicators;

- Outcome Indicator 2a: Number of instances where disputes referred to community-based conflict management mechanisms supported in Koch County were successfully Resolved in 24 months.
- Outcome Indicator 2b: Violations of articulated resolutions and communiques reconciling warring communities, agreements regulating migration etc.
- Outcome Indicator 2c: Proportion of community peace agreements and reconciliation mechanisms mediated/led by women and youth.
-

These outcome indicators will be achieved through key outputs measured by the following output indicators;

- Number of communities (counties) with functional mechanisms for conflict prevention, dialogue and conflict resolution in proportion to community peace agreements and reconciliation mechanisms mediated/led by women and youth
- Number of intra- / inter- communal dialogue sessions conducted
- Number of peaceful cattle restitution events completed
- Percentage of conflict management, prevention, and resolution activities that broaden the space for women's leadership in peace processes and actively reinforce their role as agents of peace
- Percentage of conflict management, prevention, and resolution activities that broaden the space for youth leadership in peace processes and actively reinforce their role as agents of peace
- Proportion of community peace agreements and reconciliation mechanisms mediated/led by women and youth
- Number of women and girl safe spaces established and provided GBV prevention and response services

Under this outcome, the programme will strengthen existing conflict resolution mechanisms established in Phase I and create additional mechanisms at cross-border locations to support communities to detect and resolve conflicts through peaceful means. The outcome will also focus on building relationships between communities and neighbouring counties and payams to facilitate dialogues and mediation mechanisms that will address historical drivers of violence and conflicts in Koch.

The key strategic activities will include;

- In Phase I, peace committees were formed and trained in seven payams. They were trained in understanding conflict, conflict response mechanisms, non-violence options and facilitation skills. In phase II, three additional peace committees will be trained in Koat, Ngony and Dhiel Payams. There will be refresher trainings for the first batch with additional topics and strategies including early warnings, early responses strategies, community organization and leadership. The training material will be drafted into a manual as one of the resources for community leader.

- Phase II has introduced “restorative justice”. This is an approach to justice in which one of the responses to a crime is to organize a meeting between the victim(s) and the offender(s), sometimes with representatives of the wider community. The goal is for them to share their experience of what happened, to discuss who was harmed by the crime or violation and how, and to create a consensus for what the offender can do to repair the harm from the offense. This may include a form of reparation from the offender to the victim, apologies and other amends, and other actions to compensate those affected and to prevent the offender from causing future harm. Restorative justice focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large. Fifteen individuals selected from among the members of ARG will be trained in a three-day session as facilitators of restorative justice process. The trainers for RJ will be drawn from the consortium partners.
- Dialogue sessions at Payam, County, and Cross-county levels. At the payams levels it will involve different clans and groups to address issues such collective identities, gender, youth and socio-economic activities. County level dialogue will bring people from different Payams to discuss, and where necessary, ratify agreements reached at the payams level. The cross-county dialogues will target selected Payams in Guit, Mayendit, Mayom and Rubkona deemed to be hot spots in relation to the conflict and violence in Koch.
- Train 25 selected leaders from local authorities, businesses, women, youth associations and the Inter-Church Committee in leadership and peacebuilding strategies.
- Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and Women’s Empowerment. This will be achieved through sensitization and awareness on gender roles, and rights of women and children. The project will address the effects of gender-based violence by establishing and equipping Safe House for GBV and SGBV survivors. The safe house will also include a woman and girl friendly space to provide GBV case management and PSS/PFA services for women to report incidents and be supported in a safe space. The centre will be stocked with life skills materials and supplies for survivors’ trainings. The project will also have a capitation grant for GBV survivors. GBV survivors who will benefit from the capitation grant will be dependent on vulnerability assessed at the time of enrolment.

Outcome 3: Justice sector actors are more effectively delivering justice, even in areas with previously limited or no judicial Infrastructure.

- Despite the progress achieved in Phase I, there still remains gaps that Phase II will consolidate and strengthen. With the additional capacity from the UNMISS Rule of Law Division, focus will be on accessing the formal judicial services to ensure timely resolution of reported cases. In Phase II, the programme will increase its niche in establishing mechanisms in key institutions and support basic infrastructure to make rule of law institutions effective and efficient in carrying out their mandates. Outcome Indicator 3a: The number of reported cases of serious human rights violations (including SGBV) that are investigated and prosecuted receiving judgment in the formal justice system.
- Outcome Indicator 3b: Decrease in number of persons subject to prolonged or arbitrary detention. Outcome Indicator 3c: Number of serious crimes adjudicated by informal justice mechanism

These outcome indicators will be achieved through key outputs measured by the following output indicators;

- Number of justice sector facilities (traditional and formal) constructed, renovated, and/or equipped
- Percentage of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) who feel satisfied with legal aid services provided
- Number of justice chain actors trained disaggregated by gender and type of support/training (police, prosecutors, prison and judicial personnel)
- Number of police and community relationship committees (PCRC) established and operational at community level
- Number of functional community-based protection mechanisms/networks (CBPM) for crime prevention and safety established and/or strengthened

- Number of community representatives including youth and women specific clusters trained on community security approach and action planning
- Number of SGBV survivors benefitting from victim redress mechanisms, including on transitional justice.
- Number of individuals supported to exercise and assert their housing, land and property rights
- Number of sub-national and local land authority officers educated on HLP rights and policies of South Sudan

The final project evaluation noted that access to formal justice remained a major challenge in Koch County due to persistent violence, confusion of customary and formal justice systems, and deeply rooted social norms that negate access to justice. Phase II will continue to strengthen the justice sector actors to make them more effective in delivering justice. This will be achieved through the following strategies:

- Capacity building for the chiefs' courts. Continue to train chiefs to make them more competent in handling cases in line with the constitution of the Republic of South Sudan. The central chiefs' court house and the two located in the payams will be renovated and furnished to provide a conducive environment for their work.
- Capacity support for chiefs' courts through support for clerks who are able to keep a clear written record of court proceedings.
- Facilitation of justice-focused chiefs' meetings
- Increasing access to justice by facilitating two mobile court sessions annually. These sessions will deal with several criminal cases and those whose jurisdiction are beyond the adjudication of the chiefs' courts.
- Community policing. This is partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. In this approach, the police and other law enforcement agencies, in partnership with law abiding citizens, work together to (i) apprehend offenders, (ii) prevent crime, and (iii) solve on-going problems in order to create and maintain safety and peace in the community.
- Strengthening the police service. The designated police personnel will be trained in policing. The training will be undertaken by UNPol. A police station will be constructed in Koch town so that the would-be trained personnel will have offices from which to police. Two police posts in Mirmir and Rier in Jaak Payam which have been identified as "hot spots" with regards to incursions from Mayendit and Guit respectively.
- Strengthening the prisons service. The designated personnel will be trained in correctional principles. The training will be carried out by Correctional Experts at the UNMISS. A detention facility will be built in Koch town.
- Assess and monitor current HLP needs and roll out intervention to mitigation and prevent issues from turning into violence. The peace committees will also be trained in elements of HLP laws and guidelines. HLP issues will handled both in Koch and bordering counties

OUTCOME 4: Communities, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups are empowered and increasingly able to meaningfully participate in local and broader political, peace and security processes.

- Outcome Indicator 4a: Number of instances where youth and women led Civil Society Organizations are supported to articulate their needs and demands to governance figures/ institutions.
- Outcome Indicator 4b: Increased frequency of local government officials engaging communities in political, peace and security decision making.
- Outcome Indicator 4c: Number of R-ARCSS aligned governance reforms and reconstitution of institutions undertaken with the participation of CSOs.

Under this outcome in particular, space and opportunities will be created for citizens participation in the socio-political processes, as well as nurturing institutions to handle grievances that genuinely drive the conflict in the county at the Boma-Payams levels and will be measured by these output indicators.

- Number of government officials trained (disaggregated by portfolio and gender) for better management and provision of services
- % of trained government officials demonstrating increase in knowledge in good governance components
- Number of political actors trained in mediation, dialogue and negotiation disaggregated by gender and institutional affiliation
- Number of political dialogue and discussion events supported to further implementation of the revitalized peace agreement
- Number of instances in which County & subnational institutions and structures engage youth and civil society organizations in governance, rule of law, peacebuilding and human rights and decision-making processes
- Number of women and youth organizations that are capacitated to advocate for women's and youth participation in national and subnational level political and governance discourse
- Number of laws, policies or procedures adopted and implemented to promote and improve women and youth participation at the national and subnational level

These outcomes will be realized through a number of key activities outlined below. SPLA-IG-SPLA-IO tensions remain a major issue in Koch. RSRTF Phase II will work towards fostering a cooperative relationship between these parties through various activities. Primarily, as UNMISS is a partner on RSRTF Phase II, more high-level political negotiations in consultation with the project will be possible through UNMISS's capacity to facilitate and elevate to higher levels a lack of political cooperation in accordance with R-ARCSS. In addition, other parts of the project will also provide a bottom-up fostering of cooperative relations encourage these parties to work together. Chiefs, for example, play a key role in dividing or bringing together communities. A clear example is of how SPLA-IG-SPLA-IO tensions have been realised in Koch is through refusal and contestation over chiefs' appointments and certain chiefs' jurisdiction. RSRTF Phase II's bottom-up work with the chiefs and their courts will include bringing chiefs together to discuss the law, and this will foster spaces for dialogue across party lines whenever possible. This will help foster the space and relationships dialogue between key local actors in these parties and provide a bottom-up push towards more peaceful relations.

- Women and Youth Empowerment. Mobilize women and youth in their civic organization and train them on leadership and governance (participation, responsibility, transparency, and accountability).
- The occasion of South Sudan's independence (July 11) will use a point of raising community civic participate, and to enhance awareness and participation in the R-ARSS.
- Advocacy for peace. Koch County is a bottom unit of the state and national governance. Accordingly, the process in the County will be linked to the state governance structure and vice versa. The head chiefs' court in Bentiu is also a point of referral for some cases. This will strengthen and complement the referral of cases to Bentiu. This will be coordinated through the consortium partners' offices in Bentiu together with the concerned UNMISS sections
- Building the capacity of County Government. This will involve training the local government leaders including the office of the County Commissioner, Payam Administrators, Boma Administrators and Chiefs. It will also include youth and women leaders at the County level. The training will include conflict management, human rights, citizens participation, leadership and governance. The County coordination office will be renovated and furnished.
- Capacity Building through Sensitization and Awareness Raising (Pre-election, election, and post-election processes, Permanent Constitution-making and other law reform processes, Transitional Justice

- Facilitate sessions on truth-Telling, Trauma-Awareness, Healing and Reconciliation Sessions
- Facilitate community Dialogues to enhance Participatory and Democratic Governance
- Conduct Civil-Military Dialogues as part of confidence, trust and relationship-building between the uniformed forces and civilians in furtherance of peace-building efforts and initiatives
- Sensitization and Awareness Raising through Radio Programmes (Peace Process and Revitalized Peace Agreement, Participatory and Democratic Governance, Transitional Justice, Elections (free, fair, inclusive and peaceful elections, Law Reform (including the permanent constitution making process
- Facilitate inter-communal and inter-county dialogues sessions within Koch and neighbouring counties every quarter on early marriages, rights of girl child, gender roles and collective identity (6 quarter)
- Coordinate with UNMISS to ensure that the community organizations formed by the programme are actively involved in the engagement with the national/ subnational institutions and governance structures that will enhance and sustain constructive interaction between/ among them (MC)

On resilience, Phase II programming will be guided by a resilience approach linked to “Early Market Recovery”, which is grounded in the larger Market Systems Development (MSD) methodology. It incorporates gender, social inclusion and institutional building components. It helps in the identification of risks and vulnerabilities, outlines the effects of different shocks and stresses and what underlying capacities – at household, community, market, and government level – can be strengthened, to build absorptive, adaptive, and transformative capacities.

Activities will provide direct support, through knowledge and skills-building, and cash-based livelihoods interventions. It will be driven by demand and market gaps identified in existing market assessments. Phase I focused on skills training of entrepreneurial trainers to support vocational training/apprenticeships for young men and women, to address unmet demands in the local market based on past market assessments

OUTCOME 5: Community resilience is strengthened through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

- Outcome Indicator 5a: Percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Scores (FCS) Outcome Indicator
- Outcome Indicator 5b: Average household level Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)
- Outcome Indicator 5c: % of targeted population reporting sustainability of market-based livelihood interventions for more than 12 months (Full business cycle).

The output indicators to achieve the above outcome will include:

- Number of people who actively participate in Community-based Participatory Planning exercises to identify structural drivers
- Number of community assets built, restored or maintained of recurrent crises
- Number of individuals engaged in building restoration or maintaining community assets (e.g. community center) through cash for work, (disaggregated by gender)
- Number of markets supported with improved infrastructure, supply, and storage systems.
- Number of events organized to facilitate linkages between market actors, producer groups and communities
- % increase in household savings through increased availability of community-based financial services
- Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving capacity strengthening/training/technical support by type
- Number of at-risk youths provided with access to career development and employment/ livelihoods opportunities
- Percentage of profitable agribusinesses and small-scale businesses functional at the end of the project

The programme will build on the gains made in Phase I, to strengthen community resilience through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. The following strategies will be key activities to be conducted under this outcome;

- Community-based participatory planning. At each payam, selected community leaders will be trained in developing community-based plans. This will involve identifying drivers of recurrent conflict and violence, and develop mitigation measures. They will also develop Community (Payam) Development Plans. The Community Development Plans (CDP) will identify key assets such as road, dykes, schools and or markets and propose mechanisms to improve the identified asset. Enhancing community participation increases ownership of assets which is a motivation for the community to continue maintaining these assets even beyond the project life. These community assets increase access to services and provides opportunities for engagement in economic activities which builds community resilience.
- Vocational and skills training. This will be intensified at the One-Stop Centre. The options include entrepreneurial skills, agro-business and farming. The trainees will be supported with some cash grants after submitting a successful business idea. Target populations include vulnerable youth previously associated with armed groups. This will provide opportunities to these youth to engage in economic activities and earn a living which will dissuade them from engaging in conflicts and other violent activities.
- Increase access to financial services and economic opportunities. This will be done through two approaches: VSLA and SHG. Ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups will be the primary target for the VSLA and SHG. Through the VSLAs, members will be encouraged to save and lend to each other. While in the SHGs members will have access to small grants. The members will be trained in leadership, entrepreneurship, as well as in conflict mitigation and social cohesion. Based on the learning from the evaluation of Phase I, during Phase II, VSLA members will be provided with capitation grants in cash or in-kind business as start-up kits. The capitation grants will assist women and youth involved in micro and small businesses to increased their capital to diversify and increase their income and profit margin. Beneficiary groups for the capitation grants shall be based on set criteria that include size of saving and IGA activities of members. Increased access to financial services will stimulate trade and provide motivation to engage in economic activities to earn incomes. Increased incomes improve the food security situation of the target community. Increased incomes and improved food security will reduce conflicts as the community resource base is able to support the available population.
- Development of the market system. The project will support the development of market structures, and supply and storage systems. There will also be events to facilitate linkages between market actors, including the development and dissemination of market information. Markets provide services to community which not only improves cohesion but also increases sense of safety and security
- Increase food availability. Provision of agricultural inputs (seeds and tools) and training farmers in best practices for improved production. Increased food availability will ultimately lead to increased food consumption, and reduce reliance on hunger coping strategies such as hunting for wild food, skipping meals or sending away some family members to relatives outside Koch County during lean season. Improved food security will increase self-reliance and stability which in turn will reduce conflict over resources.

OUTCOME 6: Reconciled communities have increased access to equitable and reliable basic services and reduced humanitarian aid dependency

- Outcome Indicator 6a: % of children, youth and adults enrolled in formal and non-formal education (sex and age-disaggregated)
- Outcome Indicator 6b: Number of displaced individuals voluntarily returning/relocating to Koch County (Disaggregated by sex, age)

Under this outcome, the project will focus on improving access and quality of education. This will be through the following output indicators.

- Number of people supported to stay in/return to secondary education (disaggregated by gender)
- Number of community-based centres or education hubs established to provide second chance education (SCE) opportunities are provided to youth and adults
- Number of students enrolled and graduated from functional adult literacy and second chance education (SCE) programme disaggregated by gender and age.
- Number of basic services infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated and functional

In order to realize these outputs, the following key activities will be implemented:

- Bhang Secondary School. The project will complete the exterior and interior renovation, including construction of shelving, a new ceiling, and classroom cupboards. Qualified teachers will be recruited in conjunction with the County Education Office and there will be on-going capacity building for the teachers. This will attract and absorb returnees to Koch.
- Primary Schools. Koch Girls Primary school, an all-girls school will be renovated. Meanwhile, Norbor Primary which is within the vicinity of Bhang Payam will have a four-classroom block constructed. These two schools will be the source for students who will attend Bhang secondary school after completion of their primary schooling.
- Provide Second chance education. Offers community members who dropped out of school and did not go to school an opportunity to learn literacy, which could lead to joining the formal education system
- Teachers will be trained in peace education so that they incorporate peace values into their day-to-day teachings. Some teachers will also be assigned as patrons to the peace clubs to guide and animate the pupils and teachers. There will be affirmative action to have female teachers to provide model and motivation for both girls and their parents to allow them go to school.
- The schools will play crucial roles in the preparation and marking the days specific to their areas of concern and focus; Girl Child Day, Day of the African Child, Literacy Day, among others.
- Part of our engagement with cattle-camp youth will be through mobile cattle camp education. This will allow the project to build relationships with the youth, engage in discussions and education on peace, but also provide basic numeracy and literacy to support non-violent livelihoods for these youth. This initiative builds on discussions with cattle camp youth and experience of projects elsewhere in Unity State. Initially a mobile education officer would design a bespoke curriculum for cattle camp youth in the five target areas. The curriculum will be informed by: South Sudan government guidelines on pastoralist education; lessons learned from pastoralist education elsewhere in South Sudan; the priorities and needs of the cattle camp youth; our own work on peace-supporting curriculum development. Teachers will be trained and supported with necessary materials, as well as supervised through the project.

In the first six months of the project, the conflict specialist will conduct a piece of research focused on cattle-camp youth, rule of law and education. This will support programming and allow us to hear these cattle camp perspectives.

The overall implementation will begin with a two-day envisioning session under auspices of the ARG, using appreciative inquiry (AI). AI is an approach for learning and change based on community own best practices. The outcome will be a possibility statement of “the County we want”. This will be the compass for all the stakeholders and point for concerted contribution in the nexus.

In terms of sequencing the programme believes that most of the interventions planned will take place concurrently, in a very knitted sequence. It will also work like a conveyer belt system. Thus, strengthening of the rule of law, the formal justice system and ensuring Koch has a functional and enlightened police and prison services, coupled with a local administration that is alive to community's needs, will create trust and confidence. This will improve community's sense of security and stability. In phase II UNPOL will train the police and prisons personnel. The police will in turn be link with the community through the "community policing concept Phase II activities will create stability for continuous peacebuilding and sustainable reconciliation among communities. This in turn will pave way for enhancing resilience through economic enterprises and delivery of services in education and health, by both government and private individuals and corporations. The Oil companies will be lobbied for their social corporate responsibility to the community especially in education, health and manpower development interventions. During this phase national NGO partner/s will also be identified and included in the programme. The programming has included commemoration and celebration of national and international events that sensitized the community to "think globally, as they act locally" to bring peace and stability. These events include International Women Day, National and International Youth Day, South Sudan Independence Day, International Day of Peace among others.

In response to the incursions from neighbouring counties in terms of cattle raids, revenge killings and looting, additional payams in Mayendit County (Thaker and Tharjiath payams); Guit County (Kuach and Kedet payams); Rubkona County (Nhialdiu, and Pakur payams) and Mayom County (Wangkiew and Buoth Payams) have been identified for inclusion in the RSRTF programme. An assessment is planned within the first two months (December 2021 – January 2022) to identify and ascertain the key issues in each hotspot locations, to formed the basis for designing appropriate response strategy for targeted intervention.

Linking to markets, encouraging other socio-cultural exchanges such as sports will be sequenced in response to the lessons learned about the root causes of such incursions. The conflict over who gets employed by the oil Companies involves multi-county youth. The Youth Peace Work Camp will involve representatives from those locations. Out of the proposed 100 youth; boys and girls working on common community project, will provide opportunity for building trust and relation. At the same time, they will receive training in all outcome; peacebuilding, political awareness, livelihood option for youth as well as for literacy. Out of the proposed 100 participants in Petpet, 15 will come from Kuach and Kadet Payams in Guit after careful selection and preparation for the event. The programme is aware that incursions happen not only from outside communities into Koch, and Koch also has raided into neighbouring counties both as perpetrators as well as in retaliation.

Resilience activities such as the economic, market related activities and provision of basic services will come in a sequence to the interventions related to stabilisation. The training for capacity building will be integrated between and among the different activities. The chiefs will be involved in the protection of women and girls, especially on issues of GBV and handling cases related it. The same chiefs will be introduced to alternative livelihood opportunities so that they lead by examples.

7. DESCRIPTION OF BENEFICIARIES:

The community is the overall 'beneficiary' benefiting from the programme outcomes and outputs. The project will reach out to a total of 17,591 HHs. These beneficiaries include various categories of vulnerable groups that will be specifically targeted for inclusion in project activities, especially in phase II, as highlighted below;

- In addition to 500 youth targeted in Phase I, the project will target an additional 300 (150 male and 150 female) youth. Youth are key actors in the conflict and crimes in the county. These include youth in the cattle camps who participate in the raids, ex-combatants who were involved in the armed groups and adolescents who are socialized into violence. They will be mobilized and engaged in peace clubs, sports and games, and Youth Peace Work Camps. Other areas of youth engagement include training at the One

Stop Centre, farmers' trainings, and business trainings. Youth out of school who will be mobilized for primary and or secondary education. Similarly, the project will also target youth in the identified hot spot areas including Guit County(Kuach and Kadet Payams), Rubkona County(Nhialdiu and Pakur Paymans), Mayom County(Wangkiew and , Buoth Payams and Mayendit Coutny (Thaker and Tharjiath payams).

- Women and men – these include women associated with armed violence, widows, survivors of gender-based violence, and women leaders. It will also include traditional birth attendants, healers, and traditional seers. For the men, the target categories will include chiefs, businessmen, and opinion leaders such as retired civil servants. They will be engaged in the income generating activities including the saving and lending association (SLA) and self-help groups (SHG), literacy for businesses, among others. They generate household income for the benefit of children.
- Local Administrators – including traditional chiefs, Boma and Payam Administrators, the RRC, Executive Director and the County Administration.
- The Police and Prisons Services – from the training and institution capacity that will be developed.
- Civil society – women rights organization, youth and women association, and faith-based groups that participate in the activities.
- Officials from relevant line ministries at both state and county levels including ministry of Agriculture, ministry of Education
- Teachers who will be recruited, trained and be involved in training others

8. MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PHASE I AND PHASE II:

The main difference between Phase I and Phase II of the Koch Area Based Programming for “Restoring Peaceful Co-existence for Better Livelihoods in Koch” lies in the nature and scope. In Phase II, the activities are designed to achieve six outcomes, providing a more comprehensive program approach, in particular, through the inclusion of outcomes 4 and 6. UNMISS is a new partner in the consortium who through its relevant divisions of Protection, Transition and Reintegration (PTR), Civil Affairs, Human Rights, Rule of Law and UNPOL will focus on key aspects of stabilization which was identified as a gap in the first phase. This includes work with formal justice systems, civic and political engagement and involvement of the police and prisons services as key components. Within the first quarter of Phase II, a national NGO will have been selected to join the partnership in the consortium. This was not the case in Phase II. The involvement of a NNGO is significant to ensure local knowledge and skills transfer. Capacity building will involve coaching and mentoring, an important strategy to the sustainability of project activities and for a responsible exit of the INGOs after Phase II.

The final evaluation of Phase I noted relevance and effectiveness of the structures that were established, but the need to strengthen these structures for them to be sustainable was strongly recommended. This should include developing guidelines for the beneficiaries to follow. So, strengthening and consolidation, expansion in terms of content and location, and some elements of hardware to support stabilization are the scope of Phase II programming.

Whereas in Phase I there was delay in the formation and operationalization of the Area Reference Group (ARG), for Phase II, the ARG has been part and parcel of the proposal development process as well as designing an exit strategy for the closing of Phase II. The pivotal role of the ARG is the coordination and feedback systems, which are in-built in the proposal.

Targeted hot spots locations in Guit, Mayendit, Mayom and Rubkona counties are also new programming geographic areas.

Phase II has singled out youth as an important factor for engagement. Youth in the cattle camps will be reached with appropriate training sessions on trust, peacebuilding and reconciliation, and with new opportunities to engage with formal education. As the main actors in the execution of violence and/or acts that trigger violence including eloping with young girls in marriage, youth in cattle camps will be targeted for such education initiatives as they are the perpetrators of much regional violence, especially through cattle raiding and revenge killing. The goal is to expose and link youth to the main RSRTF peacebuilding programming, which was not included in Phase I.

Phase II has also proposed additional strategies for the community; trauma awareness and healing, restorative justice, community policing for conflict prevention and stabilization.

Furthermore, Phase II is proposing a Crisis Modifier fund that will enable the consortium to quickly respond to emerging shocks that destabilize project beneficiaries in order to reduce the impact of relapse. The Crisis Modifier will be used as alternative mechanisms to enable communities to rebuild, re-energize and address any shock including natural disasters such as floods, or man-made disasters, such as protracted violence. This will be a flexible fund that the disaster risk management committee will utilize to restore community resilience.

Above all, Phase II hinges on institutionalizing project activities and good practices into community structures at all levels; Boma-Payam-County. This process will include civil society groups. It is planned that these groups will be part of the process right from when the project will be launched and throughout the implementation.

9. EXISTING COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS / STRUCTURES:

Unlike at the start of Phase I in August 2019, Koch County has full governance structures of county administration from Boma to County level, the mistrust and old political views, notwithstanding. The law enforcement structures of police and prison services are in place, although they lack capacity to effectively perform their roles and function.

The chiefs' institution is one of the structures that has provided services and hold the community together during the times of war and peace, both since 2013 but also over the decades before. During Phase I, the institution was central in providing justice using the Nuer Customary laws. The project trained them in the basic understanding of modern law including the constitution of the Republic of South Sudan and especially the human rights regimes.

The business sector of the community through its union continue to provide livelihood services in shops and markets amidst challenges of getting supplies either from Bentiu or Juba. There is also civil society including youth and women association, churches. They are members of ARG.

Other existing actions are undertaken by agencies; INGOs, NNGOs and UN agencies. These agencies actions serve the community in various areas including education, health, food security & livelihood (FSL) and protection, especially protection of children. The force protection of UNMISS, GHANBATT has a Temporary Operating Base (TOB) in Koch. The presence of GHANBATT has contributed significantly in deterring lawlessness and crime.

There is also the oil field and companies. In the past, before and immediately in post Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) period, they supported infrastructural development including schools, health and governance. In Phase II, the consortium plans to engage and lobby them as part of the strategy for further resourcing and consolidating activities for peace safety and security. The oil field areas too, has been identified as centre for conflict and violence where youth from Koch's and bordering counties compete and wish to exclude the other from getting employed. The situation is that "ours" syndrome.

Sectors/services	Actors/Agencies
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care, IRC, WR

Shelter		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRC,
FSL		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARE, Mercy Corps, World Relief, NRC, HDC
Protection & Peacebuilding	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNIDOR
	GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care, IRC,
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-Church Committee (ICC), WR
Education		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WR
Nutrition		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care, IRC, WR
HLP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRC
WASH		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACO, Mercy Corps, World Relief
NFI		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HACO, DRC, Mercy Corps
Food for Assets (FFA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNIDOR,
General Food Distribution (GFD)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRC

10. EVIDENCE BASED PROGRAMMING / LESSONS LEARNED:

Evidence Based Programming

There are three elements in the triple nexus to programming-reconciliation, stabilization and resilience which are interlinked to each other. Undermining any of these elements can greatly undermine overall programme effort. Reconciliation, in particular, is crucial in laying the foundation for stabilization and resilience building. The endline survey notes that a significant proportion of the population, particularly women and girls, still feel unsafe to go about their activities in Koch. This could be attributed to the fact that the anticipated military patrols from GHANBATT within UNMISS did not take place from the very beginning stage of this project. In Phase II of this project, consultations have been made with UNMISS Bentiu field office, and the RSRTF secretariat resulting in UNMISS' joining as an important partner to the consortium and its subsequent success.

An inclusive and conflict sensitive approach to programming is key in ensuring gains made can be sustained. In Phase I of this project, certain groups of youth, particularly those within the cattle camps, were not specifically targeted. These youth have continued to drive conflict in Koch through cattle raids and revenge killings. Phase II of this project will particularly target these youth as well as other ex-combatants and women associated with armed groups to provide them with alternative livelihoods options, educational opportunities and therefore make violence less attractive to them.

Lessons Learned

Hotspots. A key lesson learned from Phase I is that achieving peace in Koch will require extending addressing drivers of conflict beyond Koch County's border perimeters. There are factors outside Koch which still perpetuate acts of conflict and violence within Koch. Any meaningful address towards conflict resolution and reconciliation also needs to target these hotspot areas outside Koch which are prone to conflicts and which in turn impact on peaceful co-existence within Koch. In Phase II of this project, these hotspot areas in Guit County(Kuach and Kadet Payams), Rubkona County(Nhialdiu, and Pakur Paymans), Mayom County(Wangkiey and Buoth Payams and Thaker and

Tharjiath payams in Mayendit County will be targeted with dialogue sessions, messaging on peaceful co-existence and other conflict resolution mechanisms.

Emerging shocks. Koch has continued to experience complex emergencies, including manmade and natural disasters. These disasters continue to undermine natural resource base leading to scarcity of these resources which is a precursor to conflict. For instance, Koch county has experienced floods on unprecedented level in 2021. Some of the community assets established in Phase I such as roads and dykes were destroyed. The second phase of this project has therefore adopted a disaster preparedness and mitigation approach where the community will be capacity built to predict occurrence of shocks and develop appropriate response mechanisms.

Koch will continue to be influenced by political decisions taken at national and state level. For instance, the implementation of R-ARCSS has come with the hope of stability in the country. This resulted in a change of status of the Bentiu PoC into an IDP camp. This change into an IDP camp came with a reduction in humanitarian services at the IDP camp. This reduction in services has forced IDPs to seek for alternative access to services forcing some to resettle in Koch for farming. Similarly, implementation of R-ARCSS came with some peace which has made it possible for an oil company at Tharjiath to reopen. Opening of the oil company has provided some employment opportunities for the youth and thus attracting them to resettle within Koch.

Flexibility and responsive programming are key in programme success. It is important that any successful programming considers lessons learnt to respond to dynamic programme needs as they continue to occur. For instance, it was realized that most of the youth and women trained through vocational centers have not been meaningfully engaged as they lack means to support them into utilizing the skills gained. Phase II of this project has incorporated a fund that will support youth and women who have successfully completed the vocational training and have developed a convincing business plan that can be financed with minimal resources to create a transformative impact in the community. Similarly, despite efforts made on governance and rule of law in Phase II, these efforts have produced limited results. The justice actors including courts, police and prisons did not receive much focus. In Phase II, the project will continue to support access to justice through mobile courts and training as well as help the police and prison departments to construct physical infrastructure that will facilitate smooth operation of these actors.

Coordination. Regular stakeholders' meeting and coordination between implementing partners, ARG as well as interface with County and State Authorities. This will enhance shared understanding, ownership and sustainability of the project activities. It will further allow synergy and common procedures in implementation. When issues of governance and the rule of law was recognized as gaps, then proposition was made for UNMISS relevant departments to join and contribute through the consortium. Accordingly, the consortium held a meeting with UNMISS Unity State, Bentiu field office to map out roles and contributions to this project. This will include putting their diverse expertise at the disposal of the consortium, as well as facilitating state level engagement on matters pertaining to Koch and the project for peaceful co-existence.

11. CONSORTIUM RECIPIENT ORGANISATIONS / IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Phase II of "Restoring Peaceful Co-existence for Better Livelihood in Koch" has been designed and will be implemented by World Relief, Mercy Corps, Care, and UNMISS's department of Protection, Transition and Reintegration (PTR), Civil Affairs, Human Rights and UNPOL, and subsequently include a local NNGO following required due diligence processes. These departments of UNMISS Bentiu field office and the incoming NNGO are new partners. The other three implemented Phase I of the project. Each partner brings a unique contribution to the consortium. World Relief is the Consortium Lead and direct recipient organization which will oversee grant funding to the implementing NGO partners CARE, Mercy Corps, and the NNGO. As the lead partner, World Relief brings over twenty years of experience providing services to communities in Koch in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, and

food security and livelihoods. Additionally, World Relief brings a rich and long experience in implementing peacebuilding and resilience efforts outside of the area of project implementation, including in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan, as well as in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and Darfur in Sudan. Mercy Corps' ongoing vocational support to youth offers invaluable lessons to the design and implementation. In Koch, CARE currently provides GBV response and prevention using Women and Girls friendly spaces (WGFS) spread across Koch as entry points. CARE is the protection partner in Koch within the consortium and has significant presence throughout South Sudan providing protection services for at risk individuals including programming in HLP in other counties of Unity State as well as supporting the social integration of armed youth in Bentiu. UNMISS Human Rights Division and UNPOL will train the police personnel and provide on-going support to enhance professionalism. PTR & CAD will train on governance, civic participation and transitional justice.

In Phase II, an NNGO will be brought on board as a full partner. The consortium will build up the capacity of the NNGO under the guidance, coaching and mentorship of the consortium Lead.

The NNGOs will work closely with and under the direct supervision of the lead agency, WRSS. It will be the role of WRSS to build the capacity of the NNGO to be able to take up their role fully at the end of the project. Part of the capacity building will be on establishing structures and processes in financial management and strengthening their institutional capacity. Two NNGOs are required on realization that none of the existing NNGOs in Koch have physical presence in all the hotspots, but two of them will be able to cover all the hotspot payams. These NNGOs will also have presence in some of the locations where there are no other partners, especially in the remote locations of Koch. The main role of the NNGO will be to conduct mobilization and selection of beneficiaries for various interventions within these locations and coordinate with the various partners with capacity to play a facilitatory role in the actual implementation. Key activities for the NNGOs will include formation and capacity building of Peace Committees, conducting dialogue sessions, HLP and livelihood activities within the hotspot Payam for resilience building.

During the phase out period, the NNGO is expected to continue backstopping mechanisms and structures established so that services can continue even beyond the project life.

All partners currently have established presences in Koch as well as substantial knowledge of the context and gaps. An inclusive design including intensive consultations with the UN ensures optimal use of resources for impact. UNMISS Civil Affairs Division for instance has significantly contributed towards the stability activities proposed in this strategy. The proposed approach encourages partnership with civil society, communities and local authorities, and consultations have so far resulted in pragmatic problem analysis and theories of change (ToC). Additionally, the approach of working towards a common programme goal with a common results framework breaks down barriers among implementing partners in Koch and enhances coverage. The programme design nourishes complementarity with other ongoing efforts within the UN as well as with other ongoing humanitarian interventions while preventing duplication and increasing effectiveness and accountability among partners.

12. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING:

Following the Phase II logic of the Theory of Change, the Results Framework will depict what the project intends to change in the long term, how the changes can be measured and key specific deliverables, services or products that will be generated to achieve the projected changes at the end of the programme. A comprehensive RSRTF Programme Result Framework which includes a set of pre-defined intended outcomes and outputs will be adopted with sets of mandatory outcome and output level indicators, as indicated in the Funds Secretariat M&E guide. The phase II results framework is more expanded to accommodate two more outcomes. Phase II will include some more emphasis on inclusion for women and youth as well as access to basic services. This framework also includes baselines measured from phase I achievements and other sources where new activities have been added. The result framework will configure indicators with realistic targets and necessary data including disaggregation by sex,

displacement status (IDP, returnees or host communities), people with disabilities and age. This will provide a flexible and operational management tool for planning, implementation, and monitoring. The detail of programme results (outcome and outputs), list of activities, list of outcome and output indicators, baseline value, means of verifications, indicators milestone will be indicated as per RSRTF ABP Technical Proposal Template, in Annex B.

Each indicator needs a detailed definition of its key terms, including an explanation of specific aspects that will be measured (such as who, what, how the data will be collected, target beneficiaries and where the indicator applies, etc). The definition should explain precisely how the indicator will be calculated, such as the numerator and denominator of a percent measurement. Indicators can be either quantitative (numeric) or qualitative (descriptive observations).

In addition to the mandatory indicators described above, we will continue to follow the RSRTF's support for the Measuring Safety and Security tool kit to measure changes in perceptions of safety and security. Phase I of the project piloted an innovative, community-centred approach to measuring perceptions of safety and security. This method used a series of focus groups in the community to develop indicators that have been included in baseline and end line surveys, and results interpreted through focus groups. This method was inspired by the Everyday Peace Indicator method but was adapted to the South Sudanese context and the core priorities of the RSRTF. The success of the implementation of this method in phase 1 has resulted in the development of the Measuring Safety and Security tool kit which has also been used in the Trust fund project in Jonglei.

Phase 2 of the project will use this Measuring Safety and Security tool kit to continue measuring perceptions of safety and security. This will include ongoing inclusion of the indicators developed in Phase 1 in future surveys, as well as new focus groups to aid interpretation of results. Following the Measuring Safety and Security toolkit and lessons from elsewhere, the project will also engage a project ethnographer. This will allow timely feedback throughout the project and for lessons to be more quickly learnt. This is particularly essential in Koch due to the sensitive nature of the programming such as programming with police and the formal justice sector.

The key performance outcomes to be tracked will adopt the triple nexus programming. The number of Individuals, particularly children and women facing less violence at the community and local level will be one of the key indicators to be tracked. The matrix also tracks effective mechanisms put in place that meaningfully include women and youth to resolve conflicts peacefully. M&E will also track effectiveness of justice sector actors in delivering justice, even in areas with previously limited or no judicial infrastructure. The project will also measure the extent to which women, youth and disadvantaged groups are empowered and increasingly able to meaningfully participate in local and broader political, peace and security processes. The M&E framework will also measure how community resilience is strengthened through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. Lastly, the framework will also assess whether reconciled communities have increased access to equitable and reliable basic services and reduced humanitarian aid dependency.

To ensure progress, a comprehensive and harmonized monthly and quarterly output indicator progress tracking sheet (IPTS) will be developed and used by each implementing partner to track the progress of output indicators. IPTS is the spreadsheet to track the progress of project output indicators against targets monthly by World Relief's M&E team. Each of the consortium partners will prepare monthly reports and submit to the Consortium Programme Manager and the Programme M&E and Reporting Specialist. The M&E Specialist will follow up and review progress with each partner every month. This information will form the basis for project progress reports to the RSRTF Steering Committee every quarter. The Programme Manager and the M&E Specialist will also conduct joint quarterly field Programme monitoring visits to assess progress, involving members of the consortium steering committee when relevant. Key findings from monitoring visits will be provided to project staff on any necessary changes and to ensure the Programme remains on track in meeting its objectives. This process will be ongoing so

that course correction is possible if the desired outcomes are not being achieved, and to demonstrate changes in activities between year one and year two of the intervention.

Each implementing partner has M&E Officer to monitor the project implementation. M&E technical working groups comprising M&E focal persons from all consortium members and coordinated the project M&E Specialist will be established. This M&E technical working group will have a virtual monthly meeting to discuss M&E activities. Key issues documented, and lesson learnt will be shared with the consortium members to improve overall programme quality. The Area Reference Group (ARG) will be a key structure within the M&E framework. The ARG will meet regularly to receive feedback from M&E team, validate the feedback and make recommendations for any changes required during the implementation process to ensure project objectives are met.

The agencies will use the end line evaluation conducted at the end of phase I RSRTF to serve as base line data. The end line shows exactly where we are at the moment. However, there are a number of new activities in phase II which have no baseline. World Relief will take a lead in conducting a baseline survey within the first two months of programme implementation to serve as a starting point for tracking subsequent project progress and end line data for comparison at the end of the programme for appropriate outcome indicators. A mid-term review will be conducted internally by World Relief at the end of year one programme implementation period to assess and inform ongoing programme implementation. The end line survey will be also conducted internally at the end of programme implementation to make comparisons with the baseline values of outcome indicators. Data collection tools will be developed by the M&E Specialist in collaboration with partner project staff to measure each indicator.

To strengthen accountability to the affected population, the gender responsive feedback and accountability mechanism that were established in phase I will continue to be used in phase II. The complaints and feedback channels to be used will include but not limited to; office visits, complaints desks, hotline, meetings with community leaders, focus group discussions with community members. Additionally, a gender desk will be established at the Police station to receive specific feedback on gender related violations. The channels will focus primarily on verbal rather than written communication and allowing confidentiality and safety in compliance with the core humanitarian standards. The analysis of feedback and complaints recorded will be shared on monthly basis with the consortium members for decision making to address gaps reported.

In the Twenty-four (24) months of the project, there will be three review workshops for monitoring, in the sixth, twelfth and eighteenth months. This will be followed by an end line in the twenty first month. The final evaluation will be undertaken by an external consultant and conducted in the last quarter of the project, at least a month before project closure. These will involve implementing partners, community leaders, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders to assess the entire project right from in programme design, implementation and coordination including the effectiveness of the triple nexus enactment. The project will also organise a lessons learnt workshop in Juba in the last two months of the project life. This workshop will involve representative members of the ARG, the Country Directors or designate as well as finance team from each of the consortium partners and representatives from the steering committee. The recommendation from the lessons learned workshop will be used to inform decision makers of necessary adjustments needing to be made to improve the ongoing programme and future programming.

The overall effectiveness and efficiency of the programme will be measured considering the situation at baseline. In addition, the evaluation report will identify and document best good practices and key lessons in technical aspects, as well as the programme management approach to facilitate continued learning. Findings from the evaluation will be shared with Fund Secretariat, and with the humanitarian community working in South Sudan, through the relevant clusters.

13. RISKS & MITIGATIONS:

Threat	Indicators of Change	Vulnerability (Who, What, When, from Whom)	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation and Contingency	Residual Risk after M&C	RR Acceptable? (Y / N)
Failure of RoSS to implement the revitalized peace agreement	Increased political tensions signified by non-reconciliatory political statements among the opposing factions, especially from the government side Heightened incidences of communal violence including revenge killings, cattle raids and lawlessness	Who: Political actors at national, state and county levels. Armed youth and military commanders Whom: Although the conflict largely lies between men, women and children are always the victims of violence What: Eruption of fighting between different factions, especially the SPLA-IO and SPLA-IG who both have a significant presence in Koch County When: Most probable time is in 2023 when elections are expected to happen Where: Within the county, pitting different factions on opposing sides against one another	Disagreements on key political decisions including conducting a referendum on constitutional review, reintegration of police and military, establishment of required institutions and sharing of positions within key government institutions	Proliferations of arms within the community, increased militarisation of youth in the county, failure of the legal justice system and subsequent lawlessness	Training of police forces by UNPOL at the county level Enhance patrols by GANBATT Strengthening of peace committees Strengthening of the local legal justice system including courts and prisons Political engagement at the local level	Critical	Acceptable

<p>Increased inter-communal violence: Koch County to continue to have significant increase in intercommunal violence and cattle raiding from neighbouring payams. This has a direct threat to individuals in Koch County if unchecked and can cause significant risk to the stabilization and early recovery of communities in the area by eroding coping mechanisms and harming attempts at building local resilience towards future shocks.</p>	<p>There is increased militarisation among youth in different clans</p> <p>Tensions between armed persons in Government controlled areas and in opposition (IO) controlled areas.</p>	<p>Who: Armed youth from some of the bordering payams to Koch, and Armed youth in Opposition and in Government.</p> <p>Whom: Women and girls; community members</p> <p>What: For women and girls, rape and/or abduction, for the community – cattle raids, economic losses, and killings</p> <p>When: During cross border raids; when going for health services, etc</p> <p>Where: Isolated roads, in Cattle camps</p>	<p>Acts of revenge killings</p> <p>Gaining cattle wealth from others</p>	<p>Reduced access to basic services like Health and Education as a result of the violence</p> <p>Lack of water sources for cattle especially during the dry season</p> <p>No access to social services, food insecurity, increased killings, tensions and conflict</p>	<p>Carry out inter-clan dialogue sessions and engagement with community leadership/groups. Secondly, dialogue with targeted cross border youth from hot spot payams.</p> <p>Continually monitor the safety environment to understand the drivers of intercommunal tension and adapt programming accordingly.</p>	Moderate	Yes
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Deterioration of access: Accessibility remains a constant challenge in Koch County due to political differences and safety concerns from localized violence. Despite the realization of some stability with a reduction in political conflict, intercommunal violence and other drivers, such cross-border cattle raids, revenge killings still threaten access to key areas which prevent effective implementation	<p>There is increased militarisation among youth from neighbouring hot spot payams</p> <p>There is increased militarisation among youth in different clans</p>	<p>Who: Armed youth from some of the Bordering Payams to Koch and Armed youth in Opposition and in Government.</p> <p>Whom: Women and girls; community members</p> <p>What For women and girls, rape and/or abduction, for the community – cattle raids, economic losses, and killings</p> <p>When: During cross border raids, when going for health services, etc</p> <p>Where: Isolated roads, in cattle camps</p>	<p>Acts of revenge killings</p> <p>Gaining cattle wealth from others</p> <p>Isolated areas where armed youth pass/cross</p>	<p>Reduced access to basic services like Health and Education as a result of the violence</p> <p>Reduced access to project sites which would delay implementation</p> <p>Lack of water sources for cattle especially during dry season</p> <p>No access to social services, food insecurity, increased killings, tensions and conflict</p>	<p>Continued monitoring of the safety and access of operating environments, along with engagement with all parties in the country to maintain access as long as possible. Safety measures will continue to be established to enable agencies to mitigate the risk of needing to temporarily relocate</p>	Moderate	Yes
Breach of child and adult safeguarding	<p>Marriage and/or cohabiting of</p>	<p>Who: Programme Stakeholders and/or staff</p>	<p>Exploitation and abuse of the rights of</p>	<p>Abuse of the girls/women</p>	<p>WR and the IPs will mitigate this through training</p>	Minor	Yes.

policies by staff:	girls or women who are beneficiaries	<p>Whom: Women and girls who are beneficiaries</p> <p>What Early marriage, cohabitation</p> <p>When: During the course of project implementation</p> <p>Where: In communities where the programme is being implemented</p>	women and girls by staff who use of their positions and resources to coerce them	<p>that the project is to protect</p> <p>Can also lead to conflict/ tension between different families or even communities</p>	all staff and stakeholders on child and adult safeguarding principles. All staff /stakeholders (project committees) will also be required to sign respective policies		
Infection of staff or beneficiaries with COVID-19:	The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to ravage many neighbouring countries and communities, and many people in South Sudan have limited access to PEPs and are reluctant to follow SOPs set out by the Ministry of health to prevent and control COVID 19 virus infection	<p>Who: All staff, beneficiaries and other stakeholders are potential transmitters of the virus</p> <p>Whom: Staff, beneficiaries and project committee members</p> <p>What: Non-adherence to SOPs laid out by the MOH</p> <p>When: In the course project implementation</p> <p>Where: In communities and during project implementation.</p>	Not following set SOPs, limited PPE, and limited knowledge about COVID-19.	Limited knowledge about COVID-19.	WR and all IPS will adhere to all SOPs provided by the South Sudan Ministry of Health. Awareness and training sessions will be conducted outside, with social distancing will be practiced. Staff will be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and will undergo regular checks.	Moderate	Yes

Environmental shocks including flooding, drought, disease outbreaks, and pests such as locusts	Floods destroying communal resources including farms, dykes, and roads	<p>Who: Climate change, damaging human activity to the environment</p> <p>Whom: Communities and their assets, including livestock</p> <p>What: Restrictions in accessibility to some locations, destruction of crops and reduced food security, destruction of assets like roads and markets which reduces access to services</p> <p>When: Mostly during the rainy seasons from May to September each year</p> <p>Where: Whole county</p>	Very likely without proper mitigation plans	Poor livelihoods outcomes including reduced food consumption, destruction of property and assets, reverting back to conflict due to fighting over reduced resources like grazing grounds for cattle	DRR plans to mitigate impact	Moderate	Yes
Failure by certain sections of the populations to adopt proposed interventions	Reduced participation in trainings and adoption of services	<p>Who: Men, youth, community clans</p> <p>Whom: Women and girls, elderly community members, certain sections of the community</p> <p>What: Men and youth feeling left out of project activities as more emphasis is laid on women or men feeling that their position in society is being challenged.</p>	Very likely	Rejection of project interventions by men and aggrieved clans/groups. Increased incidences of violence like theft, mugging, rape, etc. Reduced participation by	Ensure all inclusion approaches through mobilization and sensitization sessions are being used	Moderate	Yes

		<p>Opposing groups failing to work together due to historical injustices between them</p> <p>When: During project implementation</p> <p>Where: Whole County</p>		<p>women as they would feel threatened. Increase in gender-based violence</p>			
<p>Fraud and other exploitative behaviours including sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Lack of resources for project implementation</p>	<p>Who: Programme staff, traders and suppliers</p> <p>Whom: Project activities and beneficiaries</p> <p>What: Staff exploit weaknesses in policies and procedures to defraud the project of resources or take advantage to exploit beneficiaries including women and girls</p> <p>When: During project implementation</p> <p>Where: Whole County</p>	<p>Likely</p>		<p>Conduct due diligence for all consortium partners</p> <p>Strengthen internal control systems and procedures including financial, procurement and human resource policies</p> <p>Ensure accountability to affected populations through regular feedback</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Yes</p>

14. MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS:

The top organ of the consortium is the Steering Committee – referred as “Consortium Steering Committee” (CSC). It is composed of the Country Directors (CDs) of partners and the Team Leader of the Protection, Transition & Reintegration (PTR) section of the UNMISS Bentiu Field Office. As the Lead Agency, the Country Director of World Relief acts as chairperson of the CSC. The primary role of the CSC will be to review and approve work plans, programme progress reports and budget reports, provide overall strategic direction for the project, and engage high-level stakeholders in Juba and Unity State as necessary.

The CSC supervises the Project Management Team (PMT) for their responsibilities and performance related to the consortium. The PMT will be housed within WR and consists of a Programme Manager (PM) (International), who will supervise a Finance and Compliance Specialist (International), and the Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (International). The PM will manage/liaise with Project Coordinators from each of the partners, who in turn will manage/work with their respective M&E Coordinators (national). The PMT will meet monthly with the project leads from each partner to ensure that the Triple-Nexus is complementarity and coherence of interventions is evident, review progress and plan for the next month. The PM will report to the CSC, which will meet every quarter, with two meetings held in Koch. The CSC will oversee the overall implementation of the project, conduct reviews and make recommendations for any adjustments. The PM will split his time between the field and Juba, working directly with partners’ project leads. The PM will represent the project to local authorities and will be the primary point person to UNMISS for Koch. The Finance and Compliance Specialist will work with the finance staff of the partners for payments and reporting, with reports flowing up to the PM, CSC, and ultimately RSRTF for feedback and review.

The Area Reference Group (ARG) is composed of representatives of all stakeholders in Koch area and include chiefs, youth and women associations, business unions, inter-Church Committees, NNGOs and INGOs. Consortium members are part of the ARG. The ARG has three functions; monitoring, coordination and sustainability of activities beyond the funding from RSRTF. The ARG will meet every two months, six times in a year to perform its functions.

The M&E Specialist will lead the M&E working group, composed of M&E staff of the partners to ensure quality and timely monitoring of all indicators regularly. As a member of the PMT, the M&E specialist contributes to the overall report submitted to the CSC by the Project Manager on behalf of the Consortium Secretariat. The PMT will prepare reports to be presented to the CSC at the meetings. The PMT staff work to support partners on a regular basis and at the request of any partner. The PMT will be the link between the consortium and the state level structures. The CSC will be the link to the national level structures, as and when required.

15. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY / EXIT STRATEGY:

The sustainability and exit strategy have three pillars; strengthening and consolidating local structures and programmes, groups and associations, mainstreaming activities into on-going partners’ activities and building the capacity of the participating NGO.

The strategy is built in the programming of this second phase through the Area Reference Groups (ARG). The composition of ARG includes all sectors of the community, including the business unions, youth and women groups and associations, the council of chiefs, faith-based groups, local administrators, county authorities including the office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and the Commissioner, as well as all the NNGOs and INGOs working in Koch. On 22 September 2021, an ARG meeting was held to discuss the possibility for a Phase II. In this meeting, recommendations and expectations for Phase II were given. This has been incorporated into the design of this proposal. For instance, the need for a classroom block at Norbor Primary School, which would prepare candidates for Bhang Secondary, was concluded during the meeting. The County Education Office will be able to

continue with this once the activity is completed and infrastructure and systems are in place. It is important to note that the Commissioner and his team actively attends these meetings, as well as all key actors. Therefore, sustainability and exit of the consortium partners in these activities will begin immediately at the launch workshop of Phase II, in which the plan will be put in place for the duration of the project. Preceding the launch, a, envisioning session will be conducted. The outcome will be the “possibility/vision state” that will guide all stakeholders during the implementation period. All stakeholders will have the “Possibility Statement” clearly printed in English and Nuer, and displayed in their official locations. In the second month of the second year, besides the bi-monthly meetings, the ARG will have a review meeting for feedback and monitoring purposes to ensure that the goals agreed upon are being achieved.

Effort will be exerted into the institutionalization of the project gains and processes to these structures;

1. Strengthening and consolidating local structures and programmes, groups and association – this includes local government and civil society organizations and structures such voluntary youth and women associations, faith-based groups particularly the inter-Church Committee (ICC). Others include the structures and programmes established during Phase I, such as the local peace committee, the paralegals and the chiefs whose capacity will have been built.
2. Mainstreaming new activities into on-going partners’ existing activities – the consortium partners will incorporate and mainstream the activities of “Restoring Peaceful Co-existence for Better Livelihood in Koch” project into their on-going programmes to promote the goals of this programme, peacebuilding, social services in education and health, livelihoods diversity and access to justice. This began during the last period of the “no cost extension” (NCE) of Phase I. To implement the integration, partner staff will be trained in conflict sensitively methodologies so that they will understand the relationship between the humanitarian response they carry out and the conflict situation and drivers in the County.
3. County, Payam and Boma Local Governance structures – with UNMISS’s Protection, Transition & Reintegration (PTR), plus the Civil Affairs, and Rule of Law departments joining the consortium, will together, focus on Outcome 3: Accountability and Rule of Law, so that the justice sector actors dispense justice more effectively, and Outcome 4: Civic Participation and governance for marginalized and disadvantaged community members especially youth and women who will be empowered to participate meaningfully in the local micro and macro political, peace and security processes. The justice and rule of law sector is supported with some hardware – the police station and posts, along with the prison. The training of these personnel and follow up support visits by the UNPOL and correctional officers will emphasize and prepare them to serve professionally. Similarly, the civil affairs department will lead the consortium in facilitating the civic engagement and training of good governance.
4. Building the capacity of the participating NGOs – the consortium will build up the capacity of the NGO under the guidance, coaching and mentorship of the consortium Lead. Six months to the end of the project, the NGOs will take up key responsibilities in the follow up of the activities with the communities.
5. Continuity of education and payment of teachers – the consortium will ensure involvement of County education office right from the project start and throughout project implementation. This will facilitate education office to be involved in education interventions, build networks with other education partners and government structures that will enable smooth transition. This project will lobby both other education partners and government to continue supporting schools under this program with scholastic materials and payment of teachers. For education specifically, the County Commissioner has this to say “County government will be able to take over after the two year, things are improving. We shall also approach the oil companies. They use to support us on this”.
6. Some assets and structures have already been handed over to the beneficiaries such as the market shade in Koch, the fish rack at Port 29, the One-Stop Center, the Chiefs’ Court houses and the Youth Center. The consortium will continue to mentor them on handling and maintenance. During the project close meeting at the Area Reference Group (ARG) stakeholders indicated readiness to maintain activities and structures.

ANNEXES

- ANNEX A: IMPLEMENTING AGENCY PROJECT PROPOSAL RESULTS FRAMEWORK
- ANNEX B: M&E PLANNING TEMPLATE
- ANNEX C: WORKPLAN
- ANNEX D: MAP
- ANNEX E: ORGANOGRAM