

FINAL REPORT

RSRTF PROGRAMME CODE:	RSRTF21A1
GRANT RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION:	IOM
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:	Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) Support for Peace and Education Development Programme (SPEDP) Finn Church Aid (FCA) Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI) United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
PROGRAMME TITLE:	Locally Driven Solutions for Social Cohesion and Promoting Early Recovery in the Country's Former Breadbasket Programme
LOCATION:	The programme was implemented in Southern Central Equatoria State, in the Counties of Yei, Lainya, Kajo-Keji and Morobo.
START & END DATES:¹	1 October 2021- 30 November 2023
PROGRAMME BUDGET:²	\$10,600,000.00
REPORTING PERIOD:	1 October 2021 – 30 November 2023

¹ If the programme has been granted a No-Cost Extension (NCE) please indicate the new revised closing date as well.

² If any budget realignments/revisions made please indicate as well.

HIGHLIGHTS

This section should capture key issues **in brief** responding the following questions:

DELIVERY

Was the programme able to achieve the set targets as planned for the year? Is the programme on track?

What, if any, have been the major challenges/delays in implementation (identify the key issues only, do not go into details which must be provided in Section 5)?

Have any adjustments been made to the work plan?

The "Locally Driven Solutions for Social Cohesion and Early Recovery in the Country's Former Breadbasket" programme was able to achieve the set targets as planned and ensured a continuity of activities during the non-cost extension (NCE) period between October and November 2023, before the beginning of phase II. Overall, the programme successfully made use of the long-term presence of the implementing partners and pre-existing experiences and networks in the targeted region, demonstrating a strong capacity in leveraging their relationship with local authorities and communities. The main challenge that the Central Equatoria State (CES) Reconciliation, Stabilization and Resilience Trust Fund (RSRTF) (CES RSRTF) Consortium experienced throughout the programme is related to the security situation in target locations. Intercommunal tensions, including conflict created by the movement of cattle herders from Jonglei in 2023, at times affected operations and access, resulting in programme delays. For instance, agricultural activities faced interruptions because of security incidents, resulting in spoiled seeds and delays in planting. The displacement of people further exacerbated the situation, causing additional delays. Although seeds were delivered on time to some locations, the onset of attacks by cattle keepers disrupted planting schedules, necessitating a wait for security to be restored before proceeding with farming activities. This underscored the complex interplay between security concerns, displacement, and agricultural productivity in the affected areas.

Consortium partners also encountered challenges in facilitating military-military dialogues between the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) and the Sudan's People Liberation Movement – In Opposition (SPLM-IO). Despite efforts to obtain approval from SPLM-IO leadership, the activity did not proceed. This reluctance suggested discomfort among SPLM-IO leaders regarding communication with SSPDF forces and their relationship with troops across the country. However, locally in Yei, an alternative channel of communication was established between commanders of both groups to mitigate conflicts arising from movements of forces, demonstrating a pragmatic approach to managing their relationship.

These obstacles reflect broader challenges encountered by implementing partners striving to foster peace within a context in which the national peace process is still under development. Nevertheless, the interventions under this programme demonstrated a positive influence on the targeted communities in terms of peacebuilding and stabilization, as elaborated further in the subsequent Results section.

Further challenges arose regarding the operationalization of the facilities constructed as part of this intervention. For instance, the CES RSRTF Consortium invested significant resources in building a courthouse in Kajo-Keji. While the construction was completed, the courthouse lacked fencing and furniture by the end of Phase I. It's noteworthy that Phase II of the programme was designed to

build upon the achievements of Phase I and expand the intervention. Thus, in this case, fencing and furniture will be provided during Phase II.

Coordination efforts also impacted delivery. On one hand, as revealed by the final evaluation of this programme, the CES RSRTF Consortium implementing partners were found to collaborate effectively on many levels, often sharing office spaces in field locations and frequently providing technical support to one another, particularly in peacebuilding activities. IOM, serving as the CES RSRTF Consortium lead, played a crucial role in oversight and implementation support. On the other hand, the CES RSRTF Consortium at times experienced bottlenecks in internal coordination due to the lack of time and resources to focus on strategic synergies for shared outcomes. This sometimes impacted on reporting and might have led to missed opportunities to maximize the intervention's impact. In response to these challenges, during Phase II, IOM has planned to increase the presence of permanent senior-level field staff in programme locations and create more opportunities for strategic reflection, such as outcome harvesting and thematic workshops, building on the existing coordination functions of the consortium.

RESULTS

Have the programme activities contributed to improving the peace and conflict dynamics in the target communities?

What evidence would indicate this change?

If applicable, explain how the programme contributes to implementation of locally led peace initiatives (e.g. Marial Bai, Pieri Agreement)

The "Locally Driven Solutions for Social Cohesion and Early Recovery in the Country's Former Breadbasket" programme aimed to support communities in Kajo-Keji, Yei, Morobo, and Lainya by fostering social cohesion and stabilizing politically divided areas. The programme operated across three main pillars: Reconciliation, Stabilization, and Resilience.

Under the **Reconciliation pillar**, the programme facilitated direct engagement with armed groups through military-civilian dialogues, training workshops for both military and civilian actors, and radio broadcasts to broaden outreach and disseminate peace messages. Participants consulted towards the end of the programme reported significant improvements, such as reduced harassment at checkpoints, improved communication between military and traditional authorities, and the resolution of conflicts resulting in the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to their homes (please see Annex III - Final Programme Evaluation). Reconciliation efforts also helped bridge gaps between returnees and host communities, fostering an environment conducive to returnees and early recovery in the region, historically known as the country's breadbasket. The impact of the programme on returnees can be understood as stemming from its direct influence on factors such as social cohesion, road security, and livelihood opportunities. In this context, the CES RSRTF Consortium, alongside complementary programmes implemented by its members through various funding channels, has contributed to creating a more conducive environment for returnees. A survey conducted by the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) revealed a significant rise in returnees to Yei, reaching 83,844 individuals as of August 2022, marking a substantial increase of 59,693 compared to December 2021 (please see Annex IV – DTM Mobility Tracking Deliverables). However, it is important to note that despite multiple positive developments recorded during the programme lifespan, significant challenges persist due to the nature of the context of intervention. For instance, returnees experienced a slight decline in the latest round of tracking conducted during the programme (please see Annex IV – DTM Mobility Tracking Deliverables) due to conflicts between

cattle herders and farmers, violent clashes involving military forces, and ongoing tensions along the Yei-Morobo border.

The Stabilization pillar prioritized protection, particularly with a gender-sensitive approach. The CES RSRTF Consortium established women centres, community protection mechanisms, including women-led ones. This work was combined with community policing initiatives, and engagement with grassroots peace and justice structures. Efforts also addressed tensions over housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, often a source of conflict between returnees and IDPs. Tensions between returnees and IDPs is a common occurrence that usually arises from IDPs occupying returnees' homes or farmland, particularly in the more developed urban centres. The CES RSRTF Consortium conducted assessments and convened HLP dialogues as a precursor to more direct interventions targeting the issue. In addition, the programme provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) through mobile teams, recognizing the significant trauma experienced by the community. While the impact assessment of these services awaits further evaluation in phase II, the substantial number of individuals reached through this intervention in comparison to the significant MHPSS needs in target locations highlights the relevance and importance of this intervention.

The Resilience pillar involved a combination of training, livelihood programming, economic recovery, and the rehabilitation and construction of basic service infrastructure. CES RSRTF Consortium members provided training in agricultural activities and agribusiness together with the distribution of seeds and tools to support small-scale agricultural production and community gardening. On the business side, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and business plan competitions aimed to support sustainable employment opportunities for programme participants. The investments into basic service infrastructure focused on the recovery of water infrastructure, health clinics, schools and customary courts.

Activities related to TVETs, Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and sponsoring micro-enterprises were highly valued by the beneficiaries. For instance, the Yei Green Home initiative represented a successful example of partnership that promoted youth, agricultural development and successful local partnerships. Being an initiative launched by the Yei County Commissioner himself in 2021, it has a local ownership component built into its core concept. Managed by a group of young people with a background in agronomy, it provided training and extension services to farming cooperatives in Yei and neighbouring counties. In 2023, the farming groups, that were supported by Yei Green Home Initiative harvested close to 112 Metric Tonnes (MT) of maize. In the first season of 2023, the farming groups cultivated 272 acres and are expecting 200 MT for both the first and second seasons (total of 400 MT). The livelihood interventions conducted under this programme represented an important means of building trust and credibility with the target communities and the relevant local authorities and they were highly appreciated by the target beneficiaries. It is important to note that the livelihood component of this programme was conceived as an enabler, rather than as an outcome, by the Theory of Change (ToC) of this programme. This means that it was not part of the programme's mandate to trigger structural impacts on the socio-economic system of the target counties. The whole idea was to contribute to the re-establishment of an environment restoring basic livelihoods and rehabilitating basic infrastructures, to support target communities to foster a sense of inclusion and reduce tensions between host communities, returnees and IDPs. Compared to 2021, the broader economic landscape in Southern CES at the end of 2023 showed clear signs of recovery following a prolonged period of conflict. Despite the numerous challenges like inflation, currency depreciation, and scarce government revenue, at the end of the programme it was possible to note an increase in market activity in urban centres, reflecting improvements from a safety and security perspective (please see Annex III - Final Programme Evaluation). This was also reiterated in a consultation held after the end of the programme in March 2024 with the County Commissioner of Yei, who stressed the

importance of looking at the current situation in the country with a comparative outlook. While challenges persist, the level of stability currently existing in the county can be seen as an achievement.

TRIPLE NEXUS

Explain how the approach of combining complementary reconciliation, stabilization, and resilience activities has made a difference to what the programme has been able to achieve with regard to peace and stabilisation. What specific difference has linking the three pillars of activities made in the target areas? (If the programme is still getting established highlight why the planned complementary approach is anticipated to deliver the necessary changes)

Provide an example of how the programme exemplifies the humanitarian-development-peace nexus concept.

The Humanitarian, Development, and Peace Nexus (HDPN), commonly known as the Triple Nexus approach, serves as an integrated framework aimed at addressing the interconnected challenges of humanitarian action, development, and peacebuilding.³ At its broadest level, the programme includes all the components of an HDP nexus approach. Activities across these various pillars contribute to humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding outcomes and thus advance collective outcomes in their broadest sense.

This approach proved highly beneficial to the programme, as it recognized the close linkage and mutual reinforcement of the three dimensions within the framework's three pillars in a crisis-affected and early recovery context. The approach facilitated stakeholder collaboration, information-sharing, and joint planning to maximize collective impact. However, according to the final evaluation, the programme could have been stronger in how it pursued collective outcomes across the HDP nexus at a more micro-level. The strategic connection between several initiatives pursued by the programme was occasionally lacking, likely because the primary focus during this initial phase was on execution rather than reflection, leaving limited time for strategic planning. This will be addressed during phase II of the programme.

While the RSRTF implementing partners were responsible for a different range of initiatives, they also managed to create synergies. The fact that they all operated utilizing the same approach and shared the same vision allowed for concrete synergies on the ground. For instance, the protection activities targeted the same group of participants as those targeted through the VSLA groups and TVET, capitalizing on the existence of groups created by the community. Coordination mechanisms at field levels also allowed for effective information sharing, which helped implementing partners in identifying and addressing issues in a timely manner as they arose.

The adoption of the Triple Nexus approach proved impactful as activities progressively complemented each other, combining initiatives focused on violence reduction, intercommunal conflict management for peacebuilding, and promotion of civic participation and the rule of law. By the end of year II of phase I, these initiatives were integrated with livelihoods and agriculture

³ [UN Trust Fund for Human Security, 'Realizing the triple nexus: Experiences from implementing the human security approach', March 2022.](#)

initiatives and infrastructure investments to enhance access to basic services. This complemented and reinforced reconciliation and stabilization efforts, ultimately incentivizing youth to move away from violence and fostering community resilience to conflicts. The theory of change of phase II will build further on this concept. It recognizes that while initiatives solely focused on reconciliation and stabilization may yield quick gains in social cohesion and stability, integrated livelihoods and resilience support are crucial for sustaining such gains and creating conditions for sustainable peace.

The Area Reference Group (ARG) structure exemplifies the HDPN strategy, creating an opportunity for exchange among actors working across the Nexus. The ARG operates on two levels: firstly, organizing monthly meetings led by government representatives, including county commissioners, with CES RSRTF Consortium partners. Secondly, holding quarterly coordination meetings, extending the invitation to other actors operating in the target area. The ARG is a fundamental body for the success of the RSRTF, and additional efforts will be made during Phase II of the programme to strengthen its local leadership for sustainability purposes and improved effectiveness.

LOCALIZATION

Briefly explain if and how have local actors been engaged in planning, decision making and implementation of the programme. How effective these engagements have been?

The programme ensured that local actors are engaged in all activity planning and decision-making processes through several strategies. Firstly, all national non-governmental organizations (NNGOs) participated in the design and implementation of each activity, with additional training provided, such as reporting. Secondly, the programme placed a strong focus on fostering strong community and authority ownership of all peace initiatives and livelihood components. Thirdly, a localized approach was encouraged by enhancing cooperation and building the capacities of law enforcement forces, authorities, and communities to sustain programme achievements.

A localization approach was also adopted during fund allocation. The CES RSRTF Consortium stands out for its incorporation of two robust NNGOs (SPEDP and CEPO) within a consortium of five implementing partners. Allocating 17.7 per cent of the budget to national actors, the CES RSRTF Consortium exceeds the RSRTF's overall allocation of nine per cent to national partners (see table 1).

Table 1: Funding Allocation within the CES RSRTF Consortium

Consortium Partner	Budget Allocation	Percentage of Budget
IOM	5,903,505 USD	55.70%
FCA	1,722,680 USD	16.25%
WPDI	1,156,239 USD	10.90%
SPDEP	984,977 USD	9.30%
CEPO	832,599 USD	7.85%
TOTAL	10,600,000 USD	100%

While the CES RSRTF Consortium does not meet the Grand Bargain's target of allocating 25 per cent of resources to national actors, this programme stands as a notable accomplishment in South Sudan, particularly considering that the localization concept was only introduced in the country in 2018. The localization approach will be further scaled up during Phase II of the programme, with an additional focus on capacity strengthening to prepare national partners to become direct recipients

of institutional funding, aiming for more sustainable outcomes across the Triple Nexus in South Sudan.

2. CONTEXT

Briefly describe how the operating context for the programme has evolved during 2022 either positively or detrimentally. What security, political, socio-economic challenges or positive changes have occurred and how has the programme implementation either contributed to these or been impacted by them. Please clearly highlight where changes in the context may require review and adaptation of programme activities as a response, if applicable.

At the outset of the RSRTF programme implementation, CES grappled with longstanding tensions between the SPLA/national South Sudanese security forces and local communities, deeply influencing perceptions of safety and security. These dynamics were rooted in fears of political disenfranchisement and disputes over security and land control. The absence of representation from the Equatoria region in the 2015 Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD)-backed peace agreement exacerbated these concerns, fostering feelings of exclusion and powerlessness, particularly regarding cattle migrations that encroached on local lands without consent. The aftermath of the conflict further strained relations, with government reprisals against civilians heightening distrust and anxiety. The formation of the National Salvation Front (NAS) in response to government actions reflected the deep-seated grievances within the community. Suspicion and aggression from government forces, coupled with collective punishment tactics, fuelled a cycle of violence and distrust. Despite widespread distrust, some local leaders sought to foster relationships with the army to ensure community safety. This cautious engagement aimed to mitigate conflict and protect civilians, exemplifying a common strategy in South Sudan. Additionally, there were signs of cautious stability by 2021, with urban centres under government control and sporadic armed violence in rural areas. However, the pervasive distrust of government forces persisted, as highlighted by the mid-2022 Measuring Safety and Security Indicator (MSS) Report and interviews (please see Annex V – MSS Report June 2023).

The security situation in southern CES has significantly improved since 2021, creating favourable conditions for peaceful return and economic settlement among returnees and IDPs across all four counties (Kajo-Keji, Morobo, Lainya, and Yei). Despite this progress, social services remain in a dire state, and the potential influx of IDPs may strain health and educational systems. The political situation in southern CES varies, with the presence of arms and ammunition posing ongoing risks. Cattle migration, particularly during the dry season, continues to negatively impact agricultural livelihoods. The presence of NAS rebels hampers free movement and leads to occasional outbreaks of violence. Recent isolated incidents, such as the killing of a boda-boda rider and foreign truck drivers, underscore the ongoing challenges. National elections currently scheduled for the end of 2024 are seen as a major risk factor for violence, although there has been a 20 per cent point drop in the perceived risk of election-related violence in recent years (please see Annex III - Final Programme Evaluation). The evolving context necessitates the review and adaptation of program activities in Phase II, with a focus on addressing cattle migration and sustaining efforts in targeted locations.

3. COORDINATION

How effective were the programmes coordination mechanisms in 2022?

How effective has coordination been between implementing partners, both within and between consortiums. Highlight both achievements and challenges.

Has a programme board been established with an agreed TOR? If yes, has any meetings' plans been developed and implemented?

How has the Area-Reference-Group functioned in terms of bringing together a broader group of stakeholders including national, state and local government actors, community representatives, and representatives from other relevant programmes/agencies/UNMISS in the target areas?

Provide one example of an achievement of the ARG in terms of enhancing aid effectiveness.

Partners in key partnerships have been identified if any during implementation and what steps have been address these?

Coordination and collaboration were anchored within the programme design, implementation strategy, and governance structure of the programme. During the first year of the programme, the CES RSRTF partners strengthened governance and coordination within the CES RSRTF Consortium to ensure activity implementation and task division according to each partner's expertise. The Programme Board, the highest governing body, provided strategic guidance, oversight, and coordination, guiding the programme's strategic direction to achieve intended impacts and link to national priorities. A joint review of programme results, and progress was maintained at the programme board level, which convened once during the reporting period to offer guidance on programme implementation.

Additionally, a Technical Working Group (TWG), chaired by the IOM RSRTF programme coordinator, made management decisions by consensus to support coordination across the four counties. Monthly coordination meetings with key government interlocutors, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and the RSRTF secretariat ensure progress alignment with programme outcomes, sharing lessons learned, and adapting to changing local dynamics. Daily discussions among TWG members ensure timely information exchange between field and Juba-based members.

In Lainya, Morobo, and Kajo Keji, ARGs served as accountability and validation mechanisms for programme activities. Comprising NGO partners, United Nations (UN) agencies, UNMISS, and community-selected members, ARGs participated in stakeholder activities and convene monthly. Challenges were experienced in the formation of ARG in Morobo, Lainya and Kajo-Keji, but all ARGs had been fully operational since November 2022 across the four counties, albeit with fewer partners than anticipated.

During year two of the programme, the CES RSRTF Consortium members focused on strengthening the HDPN approach. Apart from the regular TWG meetings, county-level ARG, and the Peacebuilding Partners Forum at the Yei level, the CES RSRTF Consortium members ensured synergies with the government, UNMISS, and development and humanitarian partners. IOM continued to liaise with the United Nations Police (UNPOL) at both the country level and the field office in Yei.

Regular coordination with county authorities generated a sense of ownership of the programme by the communities. The state and national ministries of peacebuilding were very involved in coordinating the programme mainly through informal meetings, activity planning, courtesy visits,

and ad hoc meetings. County authorities and other local stakeholders actively participated in providing security information and mobilizing beneficiaries for all programme activities. There was a clear improvement in the harmonization and training of local peace committee (LPC) members in Morobo, Yei, Lainya, and Kajo-Keji counties due to the co-facilitation of the training by the Director-General of the State Ministries of Peacebuilding and that of the local government. As an example of strong coordination, along with the consortium, CEPO advocated for a peaceful settlement of the political dispute between the government and SPLM-IO when the defense minister was removed and replaced.

Regarding coordination with development and humanitarian actors, FCA and IOM actively participated in the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-led humanitarian coordination meetings. CES RSRTF Consortium members also continued to work hand in hand with UNMISS and other peace actors such as Reconcile International, Non-Violent Peace Force, and others to streamline peace activities within the reporting period. FCA, together with the CES RSRTF Consortium partners and UNMISS civil affairs, revived the county-level meetings with religious leaders on how to initiate grassroots dialogue with hold-out groups. All partners were well-organized in planning the donor visit, especially concerning logistics and activities. The CES RSRTF Consortium is committed to continue strengthening internal and external coordination mechanisms during the second phase of the programme, streamlining communication channels between Juba and field locations, and further improving local ownership.

4. PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATORS

Briefly highlight any progress towards programme outcomes that you have reflected in the indicator tracking matrix - Annex 1. In describing outcomes, highlight the observed change in conditions, behaviours, or attitudes and how these contribute to addressing conflict drivers and increasing stabilization.

If relevant provide an update on programme plans for monitoring indicators at the outcome level.

Under each of the outputs, explain briefly the activities undertaken within the life-span of the programme. Explain any variance in achieved versus planned results. If applicable, include the number of beneficiaries/participants with gender and age disaggregation as well as any other specifically targeted groups such as ex-combatants, at-risk youth (vulnerable to engagement in violence), returnees, persons with disabilities, etc. Please make sure to that the data provided here is clearly reflected in the Annex 1 against each of the outcome and output indicators. Results Framework Indicators Tracking Matrix and avoid double counting across the quarters reported.

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

The CES RSRTF Consortium achieved significant outcomes in reducing violence and promoting peacebuilding across the programme locations between 2021 and 2023. Through various initiatives such as civil-military dialogues, community radio programmes, and advocacy efforts, tangible progress was made. This was highlighted by various changes in the context. The success of advocacy campaigns targeting cattle herders, which resulted in their departure from farming communities, is an example of the positive impact of the programme on violence reduction as it mitigated the arousal of new potential conflicts (please see Annex VI – Mid-term Evaluation). In addition, towards the end of the programme, an average of 53 per cent of surveyed individuals reported experiencing increased personal safety and security in the designated areas (please see Annex I – CES Results

Framework Tracking Matrix). While discrepancies exist across locations due to the heightened frequency of security incidents in Kajo-Keji and Lainya, two counties compounded by a complex political landscape, the consortium's demonstrated a great ability in addressing insecurity drivers. This was achieved by adopting a multi-faceted approach, that coupled the establishment of community-based protection groups and training sessions on gender-responsive security with the facilitate of de-escalation meetings and durable solutions conferences, to name a few initiatives.

Output 1a. Increased Evidence-based Results in Informed Programming on Stabilization and Social Cohesion

The programme developed and implemented various initiatives and processes across the life-span of the programme cycle aimed at increasing evidence-based results and informed programming on stabilization and social cohesion. This included the development and roll-out of four return and reintegration surveys, four DTM rounds of mobility tracking, one mapping of local peace structures, MSS studies, a mid-term and a final evaluation.

A. Four Return and Reintegration Surveys and Mobility Tracking

The CES RSRTF Consortium conducted four return and re-integration surveys across 2022 and 2023, providing valuable insights into return situations in the four counties, including needs assessment and identification of high return areas. Findings from these surveys revealed a notable increase in the number of returnees in 2023 compared to 2022. Respondents attributed this trend to various factors, including improved security situations across the four counties, enhanced service provision, and push factors in displacement areas, notably a reduction in food ratios in camps. These survey reports were presented to key programme stakeholders during monthly RSRTF technical working group meetings and the Returnee Conference held in Yei from 15 to 17 July 2023. The conference saw the participation of 75 key stakeholders, comprising 60 Male and 15 Female (please see Annex VII – DTM Return and Reintegration Surveys). The Return and Reintegration Surveys were complemented by 14 rounds of Mobility Tracking exercises, which entailed information from key-informant assessments conducted at local level to estimate the presence of IDPs and returnees in target communities. During the last round, which was conducted in April 2023, IOM DTM mapped a total of 2,027,331 IDPs in South Sudan, of whom eight per cent were previously abroad, and 2,335,604 returnees. The latter included 27 per cent returnees from abroad in 3,916 locations across the ten states of South Sudan. From March to April 2023, Central Equatoria was found to host around 300,000 IDPs. Yei scored among the locations with highest number of returnees from abroad (42,370), probably due to its closeness to the Ugandan border. Conversely, Kajo-Keji dropped to 16,816 returns, which was only slightly tempered by an increase of 2,658 returnees, resulting in a net loss of 14,158, probably due to the security situation in the country (please see Annex VII – DTM Mobility Tracking Deliverables).

B. Mapping of Local Peace Structures

During the reporting period, the CES RSRTF Consortium conducted mapping of Local Peace Structures (LPS) in four target counties (Kajo-Keji, Lainya, Morobo, and Yei) with the assistance of a national consultancy firm, Skillmax Consultancy Inc. LPS were formed at various levels to facilitate inclusive peace-making and peacebuilding processes, playing roles in advocacy, mediation, negotiation, and community empowerment. The study utilized mixed methods, including desk review, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), to identify 31 LPS and assess their capacity needs. Common conflicts faced by communities included displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, looting, armed conflicts, attacks, and cattle raiding. The study highlighted the importance of LPS in improving community livelihoods, concluding that functional

LPS contribute significantly to peacebuilding efforts at the local and community levels. The consortium's efforts in this study have enhanced evidence-based programming on stabilization and social cohesion in the target areas.

C. MSS Studies

The MSS approach utilized to support this programme was based on surveys to gauge changes in various indicators of perceived security, developed collaboratively at the programme's outset to ensure local relevance. This was complemented by participatory research conducted by Bridge Network researchers in target locations, for the sake of triangulating qualitative and quantitative data. The MSS approach offered detailed insights into shifts in the security landscape, potential connections between contextual changes and programme interventions, and opportunities for enhancing program delivery and managing conflict sensitivity concerns (please see Annex V- MSS Report June 2023).

D. Mid-term Evaluation and Workshop

The CES RSRTF Consortium conducted a mid-term programme review workshop on February 16, 2023, involving 20 key stakeholders (16 Men and 4 Women) from the four counties. The workshop aimed to evaluate program achievements, address challenges, and plan future strategies. While some stakeholders highlighted initial delays in program implementation, there was consensus on the programme's design and relevance to local needs. Significant progress was noted in the second year, despite challenges related to insecurity in accessing certain areas controlled by armed factions. To overcome these challenges, government representatives committed to engaging with armed actors to facilitate access and ensure staff safety. Recommendations from the mid-term review included engaging politically at state and national levels to address issues beyond the consortium's scope. Advocacy efforts led to significant changes, such as persuading cattle herders to relocate away from farming communities. Longer-term goals focused on addressing insecurity drivers, improving access to remote areas, and transitioning to commercial farming. Collaboration with county agriculture departments aimed at supporting vegetable cultivation for the market has shown promising results, with farmers generating income from vegetable sales (please see Annex VI – Mid-term Evaluation).

E. Final Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the Area Based Programme (ABP) in Central Equatoria while also extracting lessons for the RSRTF as a funding instrument, including its 'three pillars' of Reconciliation-Stabilization-Resilience. The Evaluation was based on a review of programme documents and secondary sources, field visits, and interviews and focus groups with 260 stakeholders (91 Female and 169 Male) in Juba and the four field locations of Kajo-Keji, Lainya, Morobo and Yei. A validation workshop was held in Juba in October 2023, and it provided an opportunity for in-depth discussion of the evaluation's findings, conclusions, and recommendations with a diverse group of stakeholders from the national and subnational levels. Findings from the evaluation have been incorporated in this report and informed the development of phase II of the programme (please see Annex III – Final Programme Evaluation).

Output 1b. Political engagement contributes to an environment that allows for the safe return of populations and the protection of civilians.

A. Advocacy and Consultative Meetings

During the first year of the programme, the CES RSRTF Consortium organized 16 advocacy and consultative meetings attended by 259 persons (183 Male and 76 Female) during the reporting period. These meetings were held with military leadership, religious leaders, local government officials and the community leaders among others. These meetings had a positive impact, whereby the political engagement of beneficiaries contributed to improving the military-civilian relations for the peaceful living, safety and security of the civil population. One of the major successful outcomes of these meetings was the transfer of the military commander following an incident where three youths were killed in Kajo-Keji during his command.

B. De-escalation Meeting in Liwolo

As measure to respond to emerging incidence that derail peaceful co-existence among community in the aftermath of the cattle herder invasion of Kajo-Keji county and the massacre of over 20 civilian⁴, the CES RSRTF Consortium facilitated a de-escalation meeting between the Dinka Bor cattle keepers and the people/farmers of Kajo-Keji County, which took place from 27 January - 1 February 2023, whereby CEPO and IOM supported government officials from CES and Jonglei State to reach Liwolo Payam of Kajo-Keji County to deescalate tensions. The tensions were sparked off by the killing of 25 cows by unknown gunmen who were perceived to be organized youth from the local community to defend their crops⁵. The killing of the 25 cows was believed to be a revenge action resulting from a traditional chief by the suspected cattle herders⁶. The meeting was successful as the Dinka Bor cattle keepers agreed to leave Liwolo within seven days, while the host community agreed to offer the cattle keepers unfettered passage. Jonglei Government officials included the Minister of Peacebuilding, human rights advisor, and the Commissioner of Bor county, while CES government officials included the security advisor, Minister of Peacebuilding, and the Commissioner of Kajo-Keji county. This dialogue has supported a quick reaction from the stakeholders and the evacuation of cattle keepers, but it is also thought to have contributed to the improvement of a better collaboration with cattle keepers in case of future incidents (please see Annex VIII - Liwolo De-Escalation Meeting Report and Annex IX - Liwolo De-escalation Meeting Attendance).

C. Durable Solution Conference in Yei

The CES RSRTF Consortium in collaboration with UNOCHA, UNMISS and UNHCR supported the local government in Yei County to conduct a durable solution conference from 14 to 17 July 2023. The conference was attended by 75 (60 Male and 15 Female) key stakeholders drawn from government departments, NGO partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and representatives of returnees, IDPs and refugees. The conference discussed gaps that affects sustainable return and re-integration of returnees, IDPS and host communities and identified strategies to address the gaps. This work will be continued during phase II of the programme.

D. Civil - military Peace Dialogues

The CES RSRTF Consortium organized civil-military dialogues throughout the entire duration of the programme across the four counties of Yei, Lainya, Morobo, and Kajo-Keji (please see Annex I – Updated Results Framework for Achieved Targets). Collaborating closely with religious leaders from diverse faith-based organizations in these counties, the CES RSRTF Consortium facilitated and mediated these dialogues, which included key government stakeholders. These dialogues proved instrumental in fostering trust between law enforcement personnel and the community, facilitating

⁴ [Eye Radio, 27 confirmed-dead-in-kajo-keji-violence., February 3, 2023.](#)

⁵ [Sudan Post, 25 cows shot dead to revenge killing of community chief, January 24, 2023.](#)

⁶ [Sudan Post, 25 cows shot dead to revenge killing of community chief, January 24, 2023.](#)

the transfer of field commanders, reducing the number of army checkpoints, minimizing unnecessary taxes imposed on civilians by armed groups, and granting access to villages previously designated as red zones for civilian populations. Furthermore, a validation workshop was convened in Kajo-Keji following a successful civil-military dialogue led by CEPO in 2023. During this workshop, a plan was formulated to disseminate the outcomes of the civil-military dialogue, and consensus was reached on a collaborative approach to implementing agreed-upon points. The dissemination process is currently ongoing (please see Annex X - Consolidated Ten Dialogue Resolution).

E. Radio Talk Shows

Between 2021 and 2022, 23 radio talk shows were conducted on women and girls' leadership issues and hosted at two separate local radio stations- Radio Hope (in Kajo-Keji) and Spirit FM (in Yei) (*Annex XX - Radio talk show report*). These stations offered wide coverage and diverse audiences: Radio Hope FM scope covers the entire Kajo-Keji with an estimated population of 140,988 people. Specifically, an estimated 913 individuals (659 Male, 254 Female) listen to the radio yearly on various programmes and during an interactive talk show organized by SPEDP, a total of 46 (26 Female, 20 Male) listeners called and contributed directly to the talk shows.

The talk show was meant to encourage peaceful co-existence among families and within communities and to create a safe environment for the returnees and protection of civilians, especially women and children (girls). Important topics presented in the talk show included South Sudan humanitarian law, human rights, and Gender Based Violence (GBV), as well as how these questions affect women and girls at the household and community levels. The topics discussed also included trust and confidence-building between civilians and military, economic impacts on ordinary citizens, and the role of the family in peacebuilding. Religious leaders, youth and women leaders, county authorities, social workers, and activists were invited and hosted as panelists to raise awareness about peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.

In 2023, the CES RSRTF Consortium organized a total of 18 radio talk-shows addressing topics crucial to peaceful coexistence and the dissemination of civil-military and civil-civil dialogues across the four counties. Among these, two talk-shows were held in Lainya, three in Kajo-Keji, two in Yei, and 11 in Morobo. These talk-shows aimed to raise community awareness regarding their role in peacebuilding, the outcomes of civil-military dialogues, the community's contributions to sustaining the two community radios (in Morobo and Lainya), and GBV protection and response. Through these radio programmes and accompanying jingles, over 40,000 listeners across the four counties were sensitized, with listeners actively engaging by calling in during talk-shows to express satisfaction with the issues discussed and their impact on community life. In an effort to enhance access to credible information, the CES RSRTF Consortium procured and distributed 20 wind-up radios to 20 radio listening groups, comprising a total of 400 members (310 Male and 90 Female) across the four counties. These listening groups were established in collaboration with local communities at the Payam level. Since the formation and distribution of these radios, members of the listening groups have actively participated in listening to the radio talk-shows, providing comments, posing questions, and offering clarifications. This proactive engagement has played a crucial role in dispelling rumours that could potentially incite conflict among community members, while also enabling CES RSRTF Consortium partners to receive complaints and valuable feedback from community members and beneficiaries regarding the impacts of RSRTF programme activities in their respective counties.

F. Establishment of Community Radio

As part of enhancing information dissemination within the programme area, the CES RSRTF Consortium successfully completed the installation, verification, and launch of two community radio

stations: Unity FM 100.8 in Lainya and Iyete FM 87.7 in Morobo County. These radio stations were established, installed, and inaugurated in close collaboration with local communities. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the radio stations, the consortium, in partnership with local communities, established board and radio user committees in Lainya and Morobo counties. In addition, comprehensive training sessions were conducted over two days, covering day-to-day technical operations, management, and sustainability aspects of the two community radios. The training for Lainya took place from 3 - 4 September 2023 and was attended by 14 members (10 Male and 4 Female), while the training for Morobo County occurred from 6 - 7 September 2023 with 13 attendees (11 Male and 2 Female). Monitoring conducted during this reporting period indicates that both radios are operational and being effectively managed by their respective boards, serving as the primary source of information for their respective counties.

G. Establishment of Radio User Committee in Lainya

On 19 June 2023, a radio user committee was established with the primary objective of formulating a strategic plan for the operationalization of radio activities and overseeing the daily operations of community radio programs. The Community User Committee comprises nine members, including the station manager, program manager (technical personnel), news editors, news readers, security guards, and cleaners. The radio establishment led to a creation of jobs for youth of Lainya County. Some of the youth had the opportunity to become radio technicians, station managers and reporters. As of December 2023, youth employed included the following:

- Two radio technicians (Male 2, Female 0) (1 in Morobo & 1 in Lainya)
- Two station managers (Male 2, Female 0) (1 in Morobo & 1 in Lainya)
- Two reporters (Male 1, Female 1) (1 in Morobo (Female) & 1 in Lainya)
- Two cleaners (Male 0, Female 2) (1 in Morobo & 1 in Lainya)
- Two guards (Male 2, Female 0) (1 in Morobo & 1 in Lainya).

H. Radio Talk Shows on Women and Girls' Issues

The CES RSRTF Consortium, under the leadership of the implementing partner SPEDP, organized 10 radio talk shows on women and girl's leadership, GBV prevention and response, as well as fundamental concepts of gender and inclusive security issues. One of the shows took place in Kajo-Keji, and nine were held in Morobo. These discussions targeted an estimated general population of 20,000 people across both counties. Various topics regarding basic GBV concepts and women's leadership were broadcasted on IYETE ("Thank You") 87.7 FM, a community radio established by the RSRTF programme in Morobo, and YENET ("Hope") FM 89.6, a community radio station in Kajo-Keji. SPEDP, as the lead CES RSRTF Consortium partner for this initiative, collaborated with other CES RSRTF Consortium members including CEPO, WPD, FCA, IOM, as well as local government authorities from Kajo-Keji and Morobo County, to develop radio content and moderate discussions. Community voices and feedback regarding the program were collected through listener calls during the talk show sessions. The talk shows significantly enhanced community members' knowledge and understanding of key gender concepts and encouraged their active participation in addressing gender-related issues that pose protection risks to women, girls, boys, and men. Strategies for addressing inequitable gender norms at the community level were shared, urging community members, local leaders, and the government to implement laws protecting the rights of all individuals in the community, irrespective of gender. In addition, there was a call for respect for individual rights and the provision of protection and care for groups with special needs. During one particular radio talk show aired on 7 March 2023, on Hope FM in Kajo-Keji, 21 call-ins were registered during the session (17 Male and 4 Female), with an additional 11 missed calls due to time constraints. This specific talk show enlightened women and girls about International Women's Day

(IWD) and emphasized the importance of providing them with access to information and communication technologies. As a result, many women and girls actively participated in the IWD celebration on 8 March 2023.

I. Radio Talk Show on Denial of Resources, Opportunities, and Services in Kajo-Keji

On April 19, 2023, a radio talk show aimed at advocating for and encouraging the public to grant women and girls rightful access to and control over productive assets and resources such as land, livestock, vehicles, mobile phones, and other resources was organized. During this talk show, the community was urged to abandon inhumane and oppressive cultural norms and beliefs that hindered women, especially widows, from inheriting property from their deceased spouses. A total of 28 individuals (20 Male and 8 Female) actively participated in the discussion. This talk show significantly contributed to empowering women by enhancing their knowledge and experience, recognizing their capacity to advocate for their protection, identifying problems and solutions, and establishing community-based support structures to better safeguard women's rights during crises.

J. Training of Women-led Community-based Protection Groups

Alongside CES RSRTF Consortium partners, SPEDP trained 168 members (139 returnees and 29 host community members) of women-led community-based protection groups from 27 to 31 March 2023, on psychosocial first aid (PFA), basic GBV concepts, and leadership in Morobo and Kajo-Keji counties (please see Annex XI - Training of Women-Led Community-Based Protection Groups). The training aimed to equip and build on women's strengths, knowledge, and experiences, enabling them to recognize their capability to advocate for their protection, identify problems and solutions, and establish community-based support structures to better safeguard their rights during crises. The trainees pledged to conduct psychosocial support activities through peer-to-peer assistance to aid trauma survivors. Overall, this activity enhanced their leadership roles within the community and increased their involvement in leadership positions and decision-making at the community level.

K. Learning Sessions on Gender Responsive and Inclusive Security Service

Ten learning sessions on gender-responsive and inclusive security were conducted, with a total of 284 participants (177 Male and 107 Female) in attendance. The primary objective of these sessions was to capitalize on women's strengths, knowledge, and experiences, acknowledging their capacity to advocate for their protection, identify challenges and solutions, and establish community-based support structures to better safeguard women's rights during crises. Specifically, 117 participants (83 Male and 34 Female who comprised of 20 from the host community members, 95 returnees, and 2 IDPs) were targeted in Lujulo Payam, Morobo County, while 167 participants (94 Male and 73 Female,) attended the training in Lire, Liwolo, Kangapo I, and Nyepo of Kajo-Keji County. The outcomes of these sessions were highly encouraging. For instance, in Lujulo Payam of Morobo County, the SSPDF, along with community leaders, agreed to develop a citizen-led security plan involving men, women, boys, and girls to address their security needs.

L. Human Rights Training on GBV Prevention and Response for Community Leaders

Throughout April 2023, 82 participants (64 Male and 18 Female) drawn from community leaders received trainings related to GBV prevention and response in Panyume, Gulumbi, Kimba, and Lujulo Payam of Morobo County. Months after the training, women have informally reported through partners an increased feeling of personal safety and security, and the CES RSRTF Consortium is expecting to see improvement in community security and social relations in the long-term. In

addition, the leaders acknowledged their lack of human rights knowledge and skills but with the training received, they will be able to uphold respect for human rights in the community.

M. Radio Jingle on Civil-Military Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence

On 20 April, 2023, a jingle was aired to raise awareness among the people of Otogo and Yei regarding the outcomes of the civil-military dialogue held in Otogo Payam. The jingle aimed to encourage local authorities to provide essential social services such as feeder roads and security access to markets and farmlands. It also sensitized both civilians and military personnel in the villages and outpost barracks about the importance of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. Throughout June 2023, another jingle aired on Voice of Hope FM focused on promoting peaceful coexistence and social cohesion, emphasizing better resolutions and recommendations for harmonious living between civilians and the military in Kajo-Keji County. Approximately nine listeners provided feedback on the message, addressing the resolutions and recommendations of the civil-military dialogue. Similarly, during the same period, Spirit FM in Yei aired a jingle to raise awareness among women on adopting coping mechanisms for economic hardships in the county. In addition, on 30 June 2023, a radio talk-show was organized on Radio Easter Catholic Diocese of Yei, aiming to sensitize the people of Yei River County about their collective responsibilities for sustaining peace.

N. Support to Religious Leaders

The FCA, in collaboration with Caritas South Sudan, co-funded an activity of the Catholic Diocese of Yei to review their strategic plan, which included documenting lessons learned. This review of the strategic plan was particularly impactful in assessing the church's efforts in ministering to communities concerning peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

O. Women's Dignity Kit Making and Menstrual Hygiene Training

SPEDP trained 154 women and girls (50 in Kajo-Keji and 104 in Morobo) on making dignity kits. Of these, 104 received training in Yugufe, Wudabi, Giliri, and Kaya Boma in Morobo, while 50 were trained in Nyepo and Lire Payams in Kajo Keji. These sessions provided participants with knowledge of menstrual hygiene and skills to create affordable reusable sanitary pads. The participants included women leaders, secretaries, pupils, individuals with special needs, teachers, church leaders, and farmer representatives. Reusable sanitary pads serve as a cost-effective and empowering solution for young women and girls, particularly in programme areas. Furthermore, the training empowered girls to discuss menstrual hygiene management and share best practices with their peers, challenging myths and misconceptions associated with menstruation, especially among adolescents and women of reproductive age.

P. Training of Women and Girls on Fuel Efficient Stoves Making

With the cooperation of the CES RSRTF Consortium members, SPEDP trained 189 individuals (73 Male and 116 Female) in Morobo, and Kajo-Keji county on fuel-efficient stove making and briquettes. The training aimed to reduce the risk of violence associated with collecting firewood, while also empowering women to network and collectively advocate against gender inequality, GBV, and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The majority of the trainees have expressed appreciation for the training and have implemented the technology in their homes.

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

The programme successfully established and strengthened mechanisms for intercommunal conflict management, focusing on meaningful inclusion of women and youth. Through civilian-to-civilian dialogues diverse communities were united, fostering social cohesion. In addition, initiatives like positive masculinity trainings promoted gender equality. The establishment of peace clubs in schools, reaching a diverse student body, installed peace education from a young age. Awareness-raising efforts on MHPSS benefitted 6,141 individuals, mitigating distress and empowering communities to cope with challenges. Notably, the provision of PFA to GBV survivors and development of a trauma awareness manual further enhanced community resilience. Radio talk shows and awareness sessions on sensitive topics facilitated community dialogue and encouraged behavioural change. Lastly, community engagement on transitional justice initiatives underscored the commitment to promoting accountability and reconciliation. Overall, these outcomes show a significant progress towards building effective conflict management mechanisms that inclusively involve women and youth, fostering peaceful coexistence and social cohesion.

Output 2a. Culturally appropriate forms of conflict resolution are promoted to support sustainable solutions for social cohesion.

A. Training in Grassroots Peace Mediation Skills

The CES RSRTF Consortium provided training on grassroots peace mediation skills to 71 faith-based leaders (56 Male and 15 Female) in Juba. Thirty-two bishops and sheikhs (24 Male and 8 Female) from the three counties of Yei, Lainya, and Morobo received this training and 39 other faith-based leaders (32 Male and 7 Female) received training on grassroots conflict mediation in Kajo-Keji county. A total of 140 religious leaders from different denominations were trained (114 Male and 26 Female). The training was also attended by county directors of peacebuilding, the Paramount Chiefs, and members of the county peace committees. A four-county interreligious mediation committee was formed, complementing the county peace committees, which have been supporting in peace and conflict resolution efforts at the grassroots level, such as through their intervention in conflict de-escalation efforts following the killing of the three youths in Kajo-Keji. Through the engagement and culturally appropriate training of local religious leaders, the programme has therefore contributed to preparing communities to be key actors of conflict resolution and management. This context provided support to sustainable social cohesion.

FCA also organized a training on positive masculinity and peacebuilding, which targeted 70 participants (55 Male and 15 Female) composed of primary school teachers, workers, local chiefs and community mobilizers in Yei River County (please see Annex XII- Training on Positive Masculinity and Peacebuilding). This activity enhanced participants' capacities in conflict and gender sensitive issues.

As a complementary activity, WPDJ conducted 10 trainings in conflict resolution education (CRE) for 466 participants (266 Male and 200 Female) in 13 Payams of the four counties. The training prepared the youth and women to conduct community dialogues by engaging stakeholders to bring forward issues dividing the communities. Communities positively received these trainings:

"I am very happy with WPDJ for the great work they are doing. I have benefited a lot from this training, especially the topic of human rights. As a woman, this training has really empowered me

to stand for my rights and the rights of other women,” reported Jackline Amuge, a 49-year-old woman from Liriya Payam of Juba County.

B. Customary Law Documentation, Review, and Validation

Consortium members enabled an important customary law documentation and review process during the annual reporting period (please see Annex XIII- Kajo-Keji Customary Law Validation Workshop Report and Annex XIV- Terekeka Customary Law Validation Workshop Report). The objective of these assessments was to establish needs around customary law, local courts, and the roles of traditional leaders; to inform intervention plans; and to ensure the inclusion of human rights and women rights in customary law. Traditional practices and customary laws that contradicted the rights enshrined in the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan were removed. For the process of validation, the customary law review report was read through, improvements were made to sections needing clarification and thereafter, the customary laws of the Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kuku community of Kajo-Keji County were adopted.

Table No 2: Customary Law Validation Workshops

Location	Participants' role	Number of participants	Target	Validation workshop
Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajo-Keji	Traditional chiefs, county commissioners, state assembly members of parliament (MPs), executive directors, judges, prosecutors, religious leaders, elders, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD)	215 participants including 50 women and 63 youth	Customary laws of 6 ethnic groups of Yei, Morobo and Lainya counties of Southern Central Equatoria State	Location: Kajo-Keji Date: 6-8 June 2022 Participants: 90 participants from the 3 counties of Lainya, Morobo and Yei
Terekeka	Traditional chiefs, MPs for the Central Equatoria State (CES) Assembly, CES Local Government Directors, youth, representatives of intellectuals and elders, police, cattle camps, County Commissioner and Executive	91 people including 20 women	Customary laws of the 5 sub-ethnic groups of the Mundari	Date: 3-day workshop from 23 - 29 June 2022 Participants: 50 participants including elders, MPs, County Commissioner, Executive Director, Chiefs, women and youth representatives

Directors of
Terekeka county

This activity contributed to an improvement in the political engagement of communities, supported dialogue and communication among members of different sectors, and strengthened their commitment to and space in the political life within their country. Through this activity, the programme contributed to putting women, youth and Persons with Disability (PWDs) at the forefront of the decision-making processes and supported a safe community environment, which could ultimately allow a safe return of populations and the protection of civilians.

A. Women Peace Network Leadership Trainings

A total of 105 women leaders, with 70 from Yei and 35 from Lainya, representing various institutions and communities in both areas, took part in the training program on women's leadership in peacebuilding organized by IOM and UNMISS (please see Annex XIV- Women Peace Network Training Curriculum). Through a four-day training, women leaders or potential women leaders of different age groups were supported to build their self-confidence, enhance their knowledge and leadership skills, and change their attitudes regarding women's and their own potential role in peacebuilding and violence reduction. The training consisted of 12 sessions covering several topics under the four broader themes, each addressed during a respective day of the training: Gender roles and leadership (day 1), GBV and its link to women's leadership and peacebuilding (day 2), key leadership skills (day 3), Peacebuilding and networking (day four). In Yei, 65 women leaders were trained in two rounds between 2 and 6 December 2022 and between 7 and 10 December 2022. 15 of the women trained were elected to the women association executive committee of Yei County at the end of November 2022. As such, the training provided the requisite capacities for the women's association leadership at the county level to effectively participate in peacebuilding processes and represent the constituency of women, which also contributes to social cohesion among women from different communities.

B. Training for Peace Committees

To support the harmonization and capacity enhancement of identified peace committees in the counties, ensuring they are well-oriented in their roles as peacekeepers and mediators within their communities, the consortium, led by FCA in partnership with the CES Ministries of Peacebuilding and Local Government, organized a series of three-day training sessions in each of the four counties: Yei, Lainya, Morobo, and Kajo-Keji. A total of 323 participants (256 Male and 67 Female) underwent training on various topics relevant to their roles within the communities and their interactions with different state ministries. This initiative aimed to streamline their work, particularly in cases requiring referrals. The training sessions saw active participation not only from members of peace committees but also from security providers, representatives of various committees within the counties, and members of religious groups. In addition, three follow-up meetings were conducted with various peace structures, including religious leaders, youth representatives, women's groups,

local chiefs, and local government stakeholders, engaging a total of 30 individuals (24 Male and 6 Female) in Lainya and Yei counties.

C. Formation and Training of School Peace Clubs

The CES RSRTF Consortium led by FCA established 12 out of 16 peace clubs planned in 16 schools in Lainya, Yei, Morobo and Kajo-Keji, with a total of 256 members (117 Male and 139 Female). The selection process ensured the inclusion of pupils with disabilities. Coordination for the training was carried out in collaboration with the county education department, primary school inspectors at the Payam level, representatives from WPDJ (CES RSRTF Consortium partner), and school head teachers. School peace clubs serve as crucial platforms for introducing peace education to children attending school. Utilizing an FCA-developed manual, students are guided through the fundamentals of peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution. This targeted intervention not only educates children but also extends its impact to their families, thereby contributing to the reduction of conflict and violence. The initiative proved impactful by equipping primary school pupils with conflict resolution skills, dissuading them from engaging in violent activities, and fostering a culture of peace from an early age.

D. Civilian-to-Civilian Dialogues

A total of 12 civilian-civilian dialogues were conducted, attended by 818 participants (549 Male and 269 Female) drawn from the respective communities in the four counties, including youth, women, elders, returnees, IDPs, religious leaders, and chiefs, among others. These dialogues aimed to unite divided communities, fostering dialogue to resolve diverse issues and enhance social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the targeted communities. Among the dialogues conducted, four took place in Yei River County, three in Lainya County, three in Kajo-Keji County, and two in Morobo County.

E. Capacity Strengthening on Conflict Resolution

The CES RSRTF Consortium conducted 14 capacity-building trainings targeting youth, host community members, and returnees, benefitting a total of 1,095 individuals (755 Male and 340 Female) across the four counties of Yei, Lainya, Morobo, and Kajo-Keji. These training programs equipped participants with skills and knowledge on conflict resolution techniques tailored to their respective communities, fostering peaceful coexistence and harmonious living among community members. Following the training, beneficiaries conducted comprehensive mappings of conflict issues in their areas, initiating community dialogues to address these concerns. To further promote social cohesion and coexistence, WPDJ, in collaboration with the trained cadres, mobilized communities in various villages for 'cinema for peace' screenings. These events provided opportunities for socialization, interaction, and discussions about pertinent social issues in a FGD format, enabling participants to relate the themes of the films to their own lives, issues, and situations.

F. Capacity Strengthening on MHPSS

The CES RSRTF Consortium led by IOM engaged 18 participants (13 Male and 5 Female) in mapping exercises and subsequently received capacity-building training on MHPSS services from 12-16 April 2023. The training, held in Morobo and Lainya counties, targeted key stakeholders from government institutions, partners, and IOM Psychosocial Mobile teams. Its aim was to enhance their skills and knowledge and prepare them for the implementation and provision of MHPSS services in emergency and conflict settings in a manner that is both acceptable and dignified. This support empowered

various actors, including local authorities, community leadership structures, humanitarian actors, religious leaders, women, and youth participants, equipping them with knowledge on MHPSS issues and interventions covering themes such as capacity-building, mainstreaming, non-violent communication, and conflict transformation.

G. Provision of MHPSS to Communities

The CES RSRTF Consortium led by IOM provided various non-specialized MHPSS to affected communities in the four counties. These services encompassed trauma awareness raising, recreational activities, informal individual counselling, as well as family, group, and community support. Awareness activities were prioritized and conducted through public gatherings, radio broadcasts, and door-to-door approaches. These diverse initiatives reached an estimated 6,141 individuals (3,768 Female, 2,373 Male) of which 2,373 were IDPs, 1,772 returnees, and 1,996 individuals from the host communities. The provision of trauma awareness raising, recreational activities, informal individual counselling, psycho-social first aid, and peer support to the community has mitigated individuals' distress, bolstered social networks, and fostered peaceful co-existence. Furthermore, it has facilitated the community in identifying its own resources and capabilities to cope with the situation. Ultimately, organizing awareness-raising and sensitization activities has positively shifted communities' attitudes, as they recognize the significance of MHPSS services in promoting peacebuilding and social cohesion.

H. Psychological First Aid Provision

During this reporting period, the CES RSRTF Consortium provided PFA to eight GBV survivors, all of whom were females, at the Jalimo and Morobo women's centres, both of which were constructed under the programme. These cases included one survivor of emotional violence, one survivor of forced marriage, two survivors of physical violence, and one survivor experiencing suicidal thoughts. The caretakers at the centres facilitated three referrals: one survivor was referred to a MHPSS counsellor in Jalimo for psychological support, another survivor was referred to Alight Organization for case management and emotional support, but prior to that, the threatened woman reported the case directly to the police. In addition, one survivor of physical violence was referred to Alight for case management and psychosocial support. In Morobo, five cases were referred to Plan International's child protection department for further assistance.

I. Development of Trauma Awareness and Resilience Building Manual

The CES RSRTF Consortium engaged the consultancy firm "Green Strings Network" to develop a Trauma Awareness and Resilience Building Manual. The development process encompassed several activities, including the launch, presentation of an inception report, consultation with key stakeholders to enrich the manual with a uniquely South Sudanese perspective, drafting of the manual, validation, fine-tuning, and finalization. The objective behind creating this manual was to systematically support peacebuilding practitioners in understanding MHPSS needs within peacebuilding contexts, developing coping strategies for both staff and communities to enhance resilience, and establishing linkages with MHPSS professionals for further case management. Following the finalization of the manual, workshops were conducted in Juba and Yei for key stakeholders to delve into topics such as trauma awareness, coping mechanisms, and compassion fatigue. These trainings have significantly bolstered the capacity of the beneficiaries, enabling them to address communal psychosocial needs and provide support to vulnerable communities affected by various events, considering the specific context of South Sudan and, particularly, Southern CES.

J. Cinema for Peace Screening

The Cinema for Peace programme serves as a social cohesion initiative designed to cultivate coexistence and social interaction among the diverse members of the targeted communities. Throughout the reporting period, 55 sessions of cinema screenings featuring educational movies were held across 25 Payams in the four counties, reaching a total of 3,664 beneficiaries (1,845 Male and 1,819 Female). This activity facilitated and strengthened social cohesion among community members by offering opportunities to watch informative peace films, engage in discussions, interact socially, and ultimately contributed to fostering an interactive and peaceful society.

K. Positive Masculinity Trainings

The programme team conducted four positive masculinity training sessions across three out of the four programme locations: Kajo-Keji, Lainya, and Morobo. These trainings fostered discussions on gender equality and discouraged cultural practices that perpetuated discrimination against any gender. By integrating elements of peacebuilding into the training, participants were introduced to positive conflict resolution techniques and referral pathways, which included engagement with peace committees. A total of 182 individuals (86 Male and 96 Female) participated.

L. Radio Talk Shows on Rape and Referral Pathways

The CES RSRTF Consortium led by SPEDP conducted a collaborative radio talk show with CEPO on rape and referral pathways in Kajo-Keji county. The live broadcast took place on Hope 89.6 FM Radio and aimed to educate the public on the causes and consequences of rape, which inflict significant suffering on survivors and their families, including unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HIV/AIDS, suicidal tendencies, physical injuries, social stigma, emotional pain, and despair. Community responses via call-ins indicated that the radio messages were informative and beneficial to the audience. They encouraged community members to reduce irresponsible alcohol consumption, uphold human rights, and promote responsible dressing among women and girls. The moderators also appealed to law enforcement officers, chiefs, and government officials to ensure that appropriate corrective and deterrent actions are taken against perpetrators of sexual violence in the community. In addition, listeners urged humanitarian partners to provide rehabilitation services for all victims and survivors of sexual violence, enabling them to lead dignified lives. Religious leaders were encouraged to preach peace and promote reconciliation and healing within the community.

NB: Please see the outputs under outcome 6 for more information on the radio set-up.

M. Awareness Raising Session on Sexual Assault and Support Pathways

Between May and June 2023, the consortium, through the centre caretakers at the women's centre constructed under the programme in Kajo-Keji county, conducted GBV awareness sessions with the women's committee, community members, and some women at the centre. These sessions were held following a general cleanliness initiative and covered topics such as sexual assault, sexual abuse, and their consequences on individuals, families, and communities at large. A total of 154 beneficiaries (10 Male and 144 Female) were reached. The centre caretakers also introduced and established access pathways for GBV support, as well as the appropriate period to seek medical assistance.

N. Community Engagement on Transitional Justice

On 30 May 2023, a one-day workshop was organized to discuss Chapter Five of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, focusing primarily on transitional justice. The workshop addressed the formation of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing (CTRH), the independent Hybrid Court for South Sudan (HCSS), and the Compensation and Reparation Authority (CRA). The Public Prosecutor attended the workshop with the primary aim of sensitizing the people of Morobo County about

military justice, monitoring, verification, and reporting of criminal and GBV cases to the relevant authorities. The main objective was to engage the community of Morobo County on matters related to transitional justice. This activity was organized by UNMISS in collaboration with CEPO in Morobo County. A total of 25 participants (20 Male and 5 Female) attended the workshop.

Outcome 3: (ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULE OF LAW) Justice sector actors are more effectively delivering justice, even in areas with previously limited or no judicial infrastructure.

Justice sector actors are more effectively delivering justice, even in areas with previously limited or no judicial infrastructure. The concerted efforts within the consortium have yielded tangible results, notably in enhancing community policing (CP) approaches, empowering women in decision-making processes, and strengthening the traditional justice system.

Output 3a. Community driven solutions to rule of law are promoted.

A. Police Community Relations Committees (PCRC) Training and Awareness on Community Policing Approach

During the first year of programme implementation, the CES RSRTF Consortium, along with UNPOL unit of UNMISS and IOM, launched a community policing initiative in four counties. This initiative aimed to enhance collaboration between communities and law enforcement, fostering trust and improving access to justice. The process began with identifying four Payams for establishing PCRCs: Yei Payam, Gulumbi, Lainya, and Lire. Security mapping conducted from 9 - 26 May 2022, helped understand the community-police relationship and security challenges. Modules developed by IOM, based on the security mapping results, covered topics like gender and human rights in community policing, crime prevention, and PCRC establishment. Various training sessions, including Training of Trainers (ToT), cascading training for police officers, awareness-raising for community members, and CP training, were conducted with participation from police officers and community representatives. These sessions aimed to promote positive dialogue between police and communities, enhance skills and knowledge on security issues, and establish PCRCs. Awareness-raising sessions were also conducted to ensure community ownership of the programme, with additional training organized for law enforcement and community members in Kajo-Keji county. These efforts contributed to strengthening community capacity for crime prevention and promoting social cohesion. Overall, PCRCs aimed to build trust and focus on engaging women and youth in the community, thereby enhancing access to local justice mechanisms. Through these activities, CES RSRTF Consortium partners fostered stronger collaboration between communities and their police officers, promoting collective security. PCRCs can serve as effective tools to ensure inclusive community participation, including by migrants, in addressing security concerns related to women and girls. Community members responded positively to these initiatives, welcoming the establishment of PCRCs. Community leaders expressed confidence that CP would serve as a catalyst for enhancing community safety through trust and adherence to the law.

B. Community Policing (CP)

On 27 March 2023, a training was organized for law enforcement agencies and community members on the community policing approach and peacebuilding with 127 participants (91 Male and 36 Female) in Morobo and Yei (please see Annex XVI- Community Policing Training). This training supported the empowerment and capacity-building of both law enforcement and communities on the concept of the rule of law, and fostered dialogue, conflict resolution and partnership, using the CP approach. Below are some of the specific results from the training:

- Introducing the CP approach to both law enforcement and community members
- Building consensus on role of community, and law enforcement in peacebuilding
- Establishing a (PCRC in which both community and law enforcement can jointly articulate peace and security concerns
- Delivering technical skills and leadership aptitudes needed in peacebuilding.
- Fostering trust, and partnership between community and state security providers.

In addition, the CES RSRTF Consortium, under the leadership of IOM, conducted one training for women in Kajo-Keji from 11 to 13 August 2023. Thirty female participants consisting of girls, women, elderly women, prison service and people leaving with disability attended the training. The training focused on women peace and security to encourage women to identify security concern affecting them in the community and report them. As the result of the training, women's skills were enhanced when it comes to problem solving in the community as a way of resolving conflict in the community in a peaceful manner. On 15 September 2023, IOM conducted a reflection and learning workshop on CP at Pyramid Hotel in Juba attended by 38 persons (27 Male and 11 Female). The workshop brought together donors, law enforcement practitioners, UNPOL, policy makers and PCRCs members from the programme locations. During the workshop the participants deliberated on the success of the programme, lessons learnt and made recommendations for future community policing interventions.

C. Training to Women PCRCs and Community Members

From 18 to 20 April 2023, a training session was held in Yei, followed by another session from 24 to 26 April 2023, in Morobo. These sessions targeted women PCRCs and community members, with the participation of 55 women. The primary aim of the training was to empower and enhance the capacity of women to engage in decision-making processes regarding issues that directly impact them within their communities. In addition, the training sought to enable them to identify security concerns and actively participate in conflict resolution and problem-solving efforts. Participants, including women members and women PCRCs, received instruction on various topics such as protection, gender mainstreaming, women peace and security, and human rights. These local initiatives, as part of the overarching outcome, have bolstered the capabilities of both the community and law enforcement agencies to address local safety and security challenges in their respective areas. Furthermore, they have contributed to rebuilding trust and confidence among community members in the law enforcement agencies operating within the region.

D. Community Safety Initiatives and Community Dialogue Forums

During the last year of programme implementation, the CES RSRTF Consortium successfully secured funding for and implemented four community safety initiatives identified by the PCRCs across the four counties of Greater Yei. In addition, the programme team facilitated community dialogue forums, which consisted of monthly PCRC meetings, between residents and law enforcement agencies. A total of ten PCRC meetings were held in Lainya, Morobo, Kajo-Keji, and Yei counties, bringing together police officers and community members to address security and safety concerns within the community. In total, 245 individuals (105 Male and 140 Female) participated in these meetings. Furthermore, the programme team provided motorbikes and bicycles to the police and PCRC committees in Lainya, Morobo, and Yei. In Kajo-Keji, the programme undertook the construction and turnover of a new police station to the local police force, as part of efforts to strengthen community policing in the area.

E. Handover of Lainya Customary Court Office Equipment

To enhance collaboration among programmes, the CES RSRTF Consortium engaged in consultations with customary council members of Lainya. In addition, the CES RSRTF Consortium procured and delivered a complete set of office equipment to the Lainya Traditional Court, which was constructed by UNIMSS. The items were handed over to the members of the customary court council. Following this, a donation acceptance form was signed by the paramount chief of the court (please see Annex XVII - Donation Acceptance Form). A total of 12 participants (3 Female and 9 Male) attended this event. This support was provided to ensure that the court is equipped with all necessary office tools to function effectively and efficiently, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of the traditional justice system.

F. Formation, Validation and Training of Customary Law Council on the New Customary Laws

Customary council leaders from Yei, Lainya, and Morobo underwent training on the various customary laws applicable in their respective counties. A total of 49 (41 Male, 8 Female) participants attended the training sessions. The training commenced with the establishment of county customary law councils for Yei, Lainya, and Morobo, followed by a comprehensive orientation of the traditional leaders on the new laws. The objective was to guide them on conducting traditional court proceedings in a manner that ensures truth and fairness for all members of the communities.

Output 3b: Local institutions are equipped with capacity for alternative disputes resolution between returnees and host communities.

A. Rehabilitation of the Law Court Premises

During the first quarter of year 2023, the CES RSRTF Consortium completed the assessment and construction of three customary court houses in Kajo-Keji, Yei, and Morobo counties. This construction complemented the soft program support provided to the traditional justice system thereby; facilitating both customary and formal justice functions and enabling the target community to easily access justice for disputes related to land and property rights, which are prevalent in the programme area as of the reporting period. As part of continued support to customary courts in Phase II of the CES RSRTF, the consortium plans to construct a four-stance latrine for each court to accommodate males, females, and persons with disabilities. Additionally, a perimeter wall will be constructed around the court premises to secure the court premises from human and animal intruders.

B. HLP Dialogue

HLP dialogue sessions were conducted in December 2022 in all four counties of Kajo-Keji, Lainya, Morobo and Yei (please see Annex XVIII - HLP Related Beneficiary Engagement and Preliminary Baseline Assessment Report). This dialogue was aimed at mapping areas of HLP hotspots in the four counties and the common forms of HLP issues. The common HLP issues mentioned in the dialogues included secondary occupation (displaced persons' land occupied without their consent), land grabbing, illegal land transfers, family disputes, the violation of women's HLP rights, poorly planned land demarcation, double allocation of plots (sale of the same plot of land to more than one buyer), unlawful expropriation of community land, officials claiming public property, disputes over road development, border conflicts, conflicts between cattle-keepers and resident communities, land-related killings, looting or destruction of HLP, occupation of public spaces by the military, illegal logging (cutting community forests by businessmen without permission), uncontrolled burning of

grasses, and cattle herders' renaming of the traditional places of the people of the four counties. The HLP categories identified in these dialogues will be used in awareness sessions and in the design of community-driven solutions to HLP issues in Phase II of the project.

Outcome 4: (CIVIC PARTICIPATION & GOVERNANCE) Communities, including women, youth and disadvantaged groups are empowered and increasingly able to meaningfully participate in local and broader political, peace and security processes.

The programme yielded significant results in promoting civic participation and governance, particularly among marginalized groups such as women, youth, and disadvantaged communities. Through strengthened governance capacity for dispute resolution, initiatives such as support for indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms and grassroots peacebuilding efforts have been implemented. For instance, conferences focusing on best practices for indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms were organized and initiated social cohesion efforts among youth groups previously involved in violent clashes. In addition, trainings on Women's Peace Networks Leadership and Women Centre Sustainability equipped women with the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in violence prevention and peacebuilding activities at the community level. These trainings led to the development of inclusive peace strategies, piloted with women from different counties, fostering gender-balanced peace spaces and engaging girls in peacebuilding. The establishment of a Women's Peace Strategy at the county level and the provision of support and empowerment activities for women have contributed to strengthening their roles in peace and development processes. Through various initiatives such as radio talk shows, positive masculinity trainings, and handovers of office equipment to women's associations, the programme has further advanced gender equality and promoted the meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in local governance and peacebuilding efforts.

Output 4a. Governance capacity for dispute resolution is strengthened.

A. Community Based Protection Committees Establishment and Strengthening

As a result of CES RSRTF Consortium partners' efforts, 10 Community Based Protection Committees (CBPCs) were established and strengthened through training in the reporting period: each committee consisted of 10 members, for a total of 100 members (44 Female and 56 Male) (please see Annex XIX - CBPCs Training Report). Through the RSRTF programme, SPEDP has continued to strengthen CBPCs on their roles in providing local protection and response to the protection and safety needs of women, girls, children, and youth.

Moreover, two referral pathways were established and updated in Kajo-Keji and Morobo with comprehensive service mappings done in April and May 2022, and gaps in protection services and focal persons were reviewed and ready for utilization by GBV lead and protection partners: Plan International (Morobo) and Alight (Kajo-Keji). With the support of RSRTF fund, a comprehensive service mapping process was undertaken in Kajo-Keji, resulting in the printing of a referral pathway service in 2022. This referral pathway contributed to addressing gaps in GBV services and was utilized by county GBV/protection partners in Kajo-Keji.

B. Women Centres

Two women centres were constructed in Morobo and Kajo-Keji counties to provide a space for empowerment and leadership sessions, recreational activities, and income generating activities targeting women and girls, as well as awareness raising sessions on GBV and how to access related services. Furthermore, 150 women and girls in Morobo county received training on efficient fuel

stove making, covering safety and business aspects. This training aimed to enhance safety, promote environmentally sustainable development, and equip women with business skills, which they then shared with their neighbors, significantly contributing to resilience and economic empowerment. In addition, during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls, 643 individuals (238 Women, 109 Girls, 159 Men, and 137 Boys) in Kajo-Keji and Morobo received messages on GBV awareness, prevention, and response. The event, held under the national theme "Take responsibility, protect women and girls from GBV in South Sudan," included participation from other partners such as Humanity and Inclusion (HI), ACROSS RED CROSS South Sudan, and South Sudan Health Association (SSUHA). In addition, a training manual on the Women Centre Sustainability Committee was developed to promote women's social cohesion and political engagement in Central Equatorial State, specifically in the counties of Kajo-Keji and Morobo (please refer to Annex XXIII - Women's Centres Sustainability Committees Training Manual). The Women Centre Sustainability committee is a community-based structure with defined responsibilities and roles, aimed at governing and sustaining the women's centre. The creation of this manual contributed to sustainability and supported women's participation in community activities, including political engagement, social cohesion, and peacebuilding, by empowering them with the necessary skills.

C. Support to Indigenous Conflict Resolution Mechanisms Initiatives

In August and September 2023, FCA, in collaboration with the CES RSRTF Consortium, organized three conferences focusing on best practices for indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms at the county and Payam levels, benefiting a total of 70 participants (47 Male and 23 Female). These conferences were initiated by the two peace committees in Morobo County and Liwollo Payam in Kajo-Keji County. In Kajo-Keji County, FCA supported two grassroots initiatives. Firstly, a Liwollo Youth conference convened approximately 70 youth representatives from various bomas of Liwollo Payam for a reconciliation dialogue addressing divisions created by the ongoing armed conflict in the locality, which had threatened peaceful harmony among the youth. Previously, Liwollo Payam had been associated with arbitrary arrests, torture, and false accusations against the youth. The reconciliation conference took place from 26 to 28 September 2023, at the Diocese of Liwollo. In addition to the youth conference, the Diocese of Liwollo hosted a three-day pastors' conference from 20-30 September 2023. This conference was attended by 86 participants (72 Male and 14 Female), including religious leaders of various ranks and calibres from the Liwollo IDP camps, Liwollo Payam, and Juba. They deliberated on issues affecting the smooth and safe return of people to Liwollo, concluding with a call for a reconciled community and the safe return of people from the IDP camps to Liwollo Payam in Kajo-Keji County.

FCA in collaboration with the Diocese of Liwollo, supported a three-day youth dialogue in Liwollo Payam of Kajo-Keji County, focusing on reconciliation and forgiveness. Various opposition factions had been undermining peaceful coexistence among the youth, and the conference aimed to reduce tension and violence among them. Seventy participants (47 Male and 23 Female) took part. FCA supported the Diocese of Morobo in conducting a leadership conference on conflict management and trauma healing using religious resources. This strategy was later adopted by the ECS Diocese of Liwollo. FCA co-supported the conference with the diocese, as part of its efforts to promote grassroots peace initiatives. The focus was on assisting lay leaders in recovering from the shocks of events that threatened social cohesion in June 2023 when the bishop of the diocese was ambushed after returning from peace missions in the refugee camps, just five kilometers from Morobo town along Kaya Road. The conference received 88 participants (65 Male and 23 Female).

D. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Assessment

The consortium, through a consultancy firm, conducted an ADR assessment in the four counties of Yei, Lainya, Morobo, and Kajo-Keji in the months of April and May 2023. The methodology of the assessment was qualitative, employing KIIs and FGDs with stakeholders in the communities, including partners implementing programmes on peacebuilding in the area. An ADR toolkit was drafted and finalized, containing key recommendations to be used by stakeholders for the implementation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the local communities (please see Annex XXI – ADR Toolkit).

Output 4 b. Youth and women participation in local solutions for peace and development is promoted.

A. Trainings on Women's Peace Networks Leadership and Women Centres Sustainability Training

Two types of training were organized on women's peace network leadership and the sustainability of women centres in Morobo County from 14 to 17 March 2023. The first training aimed to develop women's knowledge, skills, and attitudes for more active participation in violence prevention and peacebuilding issues at the community level (please see Annex XXII - Women Peace Network Leadership Training). Thirty women participated in this training and expressed satisfaction with the outcome. It provided a foundation for women to understand leadership and how gender shapes community and women's experiences in leadership, supporting their enhanced participation in peacebuilding. The second training, held from 21 to 24 March 2023, was designed to support the sustainable management of women centres by the community members (please see Annex XXIII - Women Centre Sustainability Training). Twenty-one women attended this training and were empowered to effectively lead and sustain the women centres. In addition, a similar training on Women's Peace Network Leadership Skills and Confidence Building was organized for 30 women in Kajo-Keji from 18 to 21 April 2023. The target participants included women associations, religious groups, entrepreneurs/businesswomen (sole proprietors such as those in the market), workers at government institutions, educational institutions (such as teachers), community leaders including those in courts, women working in the medical field, and IOM partners' staff or volunteers working in programme thematic areas. The main result of this training was to develop women's knowledge, skills, and attitudes for more active participation in violence prevention and peacebuilding issues at the community level. Another training was organized in the same location from 26 to 29 April 2023, to strengthen the capacities of women in the sustainable management of women's committees. The IOM protection team, in collaboration with SPEDP, conducted this four-day training, which was attended by 16 members including two centre caretakers, two GBV social workers from SPEDP, and one Chairlady for Kangapo.

B. Development of an Inclusive Youth Peace Strategy

IOM, along with CES RSRTF Consortium partners, successfully conducted a youth consultation workshop in Yei for communities from Yei, Morobo, Lainya, and Kajo-Keji counties on 20 January 2023. The objective of the youth consultative workshop was to gather views and ideas to aid in the development of an inclusive youth peace strategy for the four counties. A total of 40 youth (28 Male and 12 Female) from all the Payams of the four counties attended the workshop and brainstormed on a peacebuilding strategy and ways the youth could actively participate in and drive peacebuilding initiatives. Consultations were also held with key peacebuilding partners, including directors for peacebuilding in the four counties, the Department of Youth at the county level, CES state youth union leadership, and the Non-Violence Peace Force organization, among others. The findings were

compiled into a report, which was validated, fine-tuned, aligned with the National Youth Strategy, and produced as the final youth peace strategy for the four counties. The recommendations and outcomes of the peace strategy supported the youth in the four counties and relevant peacebuilding partners in advocating for and implementing youth-led peacebuilding activities (please see Annex XXIV - Youth Peace Strategy Draft Report).

C. Establishment of a Women's Peace Strategy at County Level

IOM in collaboration with CES RSRTF Consortium partners, women's associations from Yei, Lainya, and Kajo-Keji counties, and peacebuilding partners, successfully conducted a women's peace strategy consultation workshop on 20 January 2023. The workshop aimed to gather views and ideas on how women can participate in peacebuilding initiatives at the Boma, Payam, county, state, and national levels. Recommendations from the workshop were compiled, documented, validated, and produced into a final Women's Peace Strategy for the four counties. A total of 40 women from all 20 Payams of Yei, Lainya, and Morobo counties actively participated in the consultation workshop and the subsequent validation workshop held on 22 February 2023. The final Women's Peace Strategy is currently being piloted with women from Bomas and Payams of each of the four counties. Key pilot activities being implemented by the women include the recruitment and engagement of girls in peacebuilding, creating gender-balanced peace spaces, and organizing art activities and performances to relieve stress. A review was conducted in May 2023 to fine-tune and develop a final, inclusive women's peace strategy for the four counties.

D. Women Empowerment Support

IOM, in coordination with other CES RSRTF Consortium partners, enrolled and supported 242 women (84 in Morobo and 158 in Kajo-Keji), including women with disabilities, to engage in recreational and empowerment activities at the two women's centres constructed under the RSRTF programme. The women participated in activities such as embroidery/bedsheet sewing, pottery, and crocheting for tablecloths. Women from different categories, including those with disabilities, participated. On 18 September 2023, 40 females participated in traditional dance (30 women and 10 girls). In addition, to improve hygiene practices and menstrual management, on 14 and 28 September 2023, the centre caretakers conducted awareness-raising sessions on personal hygiene, reaching a total of 147 women. A total of nine GBV survivors received PFA at the women's empowerment centre, five of whom were survivors of emotional and physical violence, while the other four were survivors of child marriage. For effective case management, the programme referred the women to other partners for further support and follow-up.

E. Training of Journalist on Ethic and Conflict Sensitive Reporting

To enhance skills of media professionals and journalist on ethical and accurate reporting, the CES RSRTF Consortium in collaboration with UNIMSS organized a three-day training covering ethical conducts, conflict sensitivity reporting for media professional, defamations in journalism, news writing and reporting among others. The training was conducted from 29 to 31 August 2023 and was attended by 26 participants (19 Male and 7 Female) including six journalists from two radios station established under the RSRTF programme. Trained journalist gained the necessary skills to execute their roles in a more professional way and to ensure conflict-sensitive reporting.

F. Supported Inter- County Peace Tournament

The programme supported and facilitated a one week inter county peace tournament among the four counties between 28 August and 1 September 2023. Morobo county won the tournament and 99 players (98 Male and one Female) participated. The tournament drew thousands of supporters at Yei Freedom Square. The sport offered space for youth to gather and ensure peaceful co-existence.

G. Positive Masculinity Trainings

Through FCA, the CES RSRTF Consortium facilitated trainings on positive masculinity. The gender mainstreaming component was used as a strategy to champion gender equality integrated into peacebuilding in the month of July in Morobo County. This was a second training conducted for the people of Morobo county and it targeted 55 participants (36 Male and 19 Female). Participants included local authorities and traditional leaders, IDPs, returnees, and host communities. Awareness raising on referral pathway and available services was done.

H. Radio Talk Show on Denial of Resources Opportunities and Services in Kajo-Keji

On 19 April 2023, a radio talk show aimed at advocating and seeking the public to grant women/girls the rightful access to and control over productive assets and resource such as land, cows, goats, chicken, vehicles, motorbikes, phones etc was organised. In this talk show, the community was asked to desist from inhuman and oppressive cultural norms and beliefs that prevented women and girls and more specifically widows from inheriting property from their deceased spouses. A total of 28 people (20 Male and 8 Female) actively participated. This talk show contributed to strengthening women's knowledge and experience by recognizing their capability to drive their protection, identifying problems and solutions, and creating community-based support structures that could better protect women's rights in times of crisis.

I. Handover of Office Equipment for Yei Women Association

On 3 April 2023, IOM, in collaboration with UNMISS and the Yei County authority, the consortium handed over a full set of office equipment to the Yei Women's Association. The CES RSRTF Consortium provided support in the form of four office tables, four office chairs, twenty guest chairs, three conference tables, two office cabinets, and one hundred plastic chairs, among other items. The association's office was constructed by UNMISS, with financial and material assistance from the consortium. This handover was conducted with the full participation of the Yei Women's Association and UNMISS. A total of 30 individuals (8 Male and 22 Female) participated in the one-day handover ceremony at the Yei Women's Association offices. The event was covered and broadcasted by local media houses (Spirit FM Yei and Radio Easter Yei) in their radio news programs. The provision of this equipment supports the effective and efficient functioning of the Yei Women's Association (please see Annex XXV - Donation Acceptance Form Women Association).

J. Gender Transformative Training for Youth

From 2-6 May 2023, a gender-transformative training for youth was organized in Yei River County. Forty individuals (21 Male and 19 Female) participated with 30 from the host communities and 10 returnees. The objective of the training was to facilitate behavioural change skills among youths,

enabling them to become trainers of trainers in the youth gender-transformative and peacebuilding curriculum for at-risk youths in Yei River County. The training employed various methods such as lectures, role-plays, self-reflection, drama, and storytelling. The training aimed to initiate social cohesion efforts among various youth groups in Yei who were frequently involved in violent clashes.

OUTCOME 5: (ECONOMY & LIVELIHOODS) Community resilience is strengthened through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods.

Outcome five focused on strengthening community resilience through increased economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods. Trainings on cooperative governance, group dynamics, and climate-smart agriculture were conducted and equipped participants with knowledge and skills to improve modern crop production at household levels, fostering socio-economic empowerment and improving living standards. In addition, the formation and support of communal gardens, coupled with the distribution of farming inputs, contributed to restoring livelihoods, generating income, and fostering social cohesion among communities. Trainings for women and youth enterprise groups further empowered participants to identify profitable enterprises and develop viable business plans. Post-harvest monitoring surveys provided insights into agricultural productivity and informed future interventions. Through these efforts, communities were assisted in rebuilding their lives, enhancing resilience, and creating sustainable economic opportunities.

Output 5a. Local capacities for resilience and revival of breadbaskets are promoted through agricultural extension.

A. Business and Entrepreneurship Training

In partnership with the CES RSRTF Consortium members, WPD I trained 537 youth (313 Males and 224 Females) in business and entrepreneurship from March to December 2022. A total of 19 out of 20 planned trainings were conducted. These trainees were able to identify business opportunities in their communities and developed 480 business plans. These plans were presented and reviewed by a panel that consisted of WPD I technical staff, staff from other consortium partners, key stakeholders including, County level chamber of commerce representatives, Youth and women union representative among others. The process led to the selection of 97 best and viable business ideas for awarding of small business grant by the program. These trainings and support gave participants the ability to engage in business as means of developing and providing services to their communities. This activity received great support from key local stakeholders such as the ARG members and government officials.

B. Off Season Vegetable Production and Field Crop Support

A total of 100 farmers (33 Male and 67 Female) from Lire and Liwolo Payams were organized, registered, and provided assistance for off-season vegetable production and field crop cultivation. This support included agricultural tools, seeds, and cash incentives for labour, facilitating the preparation of 55 feddans of land (divided into five for vegetables and 50 for field crops) cleared for tractor ploughing. The agricultural inputs supplied to aid the targeted beneficiaries encompassed essential farming tools such as 100 hoes, 100 sickles, 25 axes, 50 watering cans, 100 weeding hoes, six treadle pumps, two water pumps (used as generators for irrigation), and a variety of vegetable seeds. Additionally, 50 out of the 100 beneficiaries underwent a four-day training program focusing on vegetable production techniques and business skills, thereby enhancing their livelihood capabilities. The Kajo-Keji county agriculture department collaborated with WPD I to facilitate the training sessions on vegetable cultivation and business acumen. This support initiative serves two primary objectives within the program: firstly, to augment and diversify farmers' incomes by

producing for the market and engaging them actively throughout regular farming seasons. Secondly, it aimed to deter their involvement in activities viewed with suspicion by security personnel, thereby fostering a peaceful living environment for the target population. SPEDP also mobilized and registered 1,000 households, forming 40 farm groups in Morobo and Kajo-Keji counties. These groups received training in best practices for vegetable production, focusing on improving household nutrition and developing business skills, among other areas. Furthermore, they received support in the form of agricultural inputs (tools and seeds) for off-season farming. The promotion of peaceful co-existence and social cohesion was fostered through group collaboration among the targeted beneficiaries.

C. Trainings on Cooperative Governance and Group Dynamics, and Climate Smart Agriculture

In collaboration with the CES RSRTF consortium, SPEDP organized trainings on Cooperative Governance and Group Dynamics in Morobo and Kajo-Keji counties. A total of 986 individuals (586 Male and 400 Female) were equipped with knowledge and skills which enhanced modern crop production at the household level, fostered socioeconomic empowerment, mitigated the pull factors associated with joining armed forces, and elevated their standards of living. Participants expressed appreciation for the training and were able to exchange experiences regarding the principles and operations of cooperatives. Following the completion of the training sessions, monitored beneficiaries successfully increased their group's crop production and formally registered their cooperatives with local authorities in Kajo-Keji County. Moreover, they received training in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and were provided with farming inputs such as maize and vegetable seeds. Specifically, 350 individuals (210 Male and 140 Female) underwent training in CSA. The 22 training sessions empowered participants with knowledge and skills in various aspects of organic pesticide production, identification of plant pests and diseases, land preparation techniques (including primary and secondary tilling, nursery bed preparations, ridge/raised bed planting, spacing, transplanting, staking tomatoes, pruning, and weeding), as well as soil and water conservation methods (such as mulching and gap filling). The training encouraged year-round vegetable production, with both women and youth learning how to demarcate and measure fields for optimal planting. Women and youth enterprise groups were trained in constructing ridges suitable for vegetable crops, enhancing soil moisture conservation over extended periods. Additionally, participants learned how to establish and manage nursery beds, as well as transplanting techniques with appropriate spacing, facilitated by extension officers. The knowledge transfer among participants further solidified their understanding and practical application of these techniques.

D. Formation and Support to Communal Gardens

IOM completed the formation of community gardens in the three counties of Yei, Lainya and Morobo with a total of 300 people (180 Male and 120 Female) benefitting from these community gardens. The groups received farm inputs (simple farm tools and seeds) as shown below:

Table 3: Farm inputs distribution

s/no	Items	Unit	Pcs
1	Hoes	pcs	300
2	Rake	pcs	300
3	Axe	pcs	300
4	Panga	pcs	300
5	Maize	Kgs	1500
6	Beans	Kgs	600

7	Cassava stocks (Asso 1)	Bags	300
8	Tomatoes	Pkts	300
9	Cabbage	Pkts	300
10	Onions	Pkts	300
11	Green paper	Pkts	300
12	Egg plant	Pkts	300
13	Garden Egg	Pkts	300
14	Okra	Pkts	300

In addition to the inputs (simple farm tools and seeds) provided, the beneficiaries also received cash for work incentives to support them in clearing their farmlands in consultation and coordination with county agriculture departments of the three counties (Yei, Lainya and Morobo). Orientation training on planting and management of specific crops and tractor ploughing services to increase their acreage was provide to the participants of the community gardens. The objective of this support is to help farmers in this location to restore their livelihoods, generate income from agriculture produce, create social cohesion among communities and most importantly facilitate a gradual process to reviving the former lost cooperatives that previously existed in the three counties. The groups were mentored and monitored for one complete crop cycle before graduating.

E. Training of Women and Youth Enterprise Groups on Enterprise Development, Gender, and Group Dynamics

With the support of CES RSRTF Consortium partners, SPEDP trained groups of farmers on CSA practices, cooperative governance, and group dynamics from 2-18 March 2023 (please see Annex XXVI - Women and Youth Enterprise Development). A total of 198 participants (130 Male and 68 Female) were trained representing a total of 161 returnees and 37 participants from host communities. As a result of the training activities, women, and youth have identified their most profitable enterprises in their various locations. Groups have undertaken commercial production of onions, tomatoes and cabbages including watermelon and green pepper. The groups were also supported with farming inputs and SPEDP agricultural extension workers continuously offered support to ensure adoption of the recommended smart agricultural practices. In addition, the groups were supported to strengthen their groups leadership structures to develop viable and feasible business plans.

F. Distribution of Seeds and Tools to Crop Producer Groups/Cooperatives in Kajo-Keji and Morobo

With support from the CES RSRTF Consortium partners, SPEDP distributed vegetable seeds (cabbage, tomatoes, onions, watermelon) and tools (hoes, treadle pumps, watering cans, pangas, rakes, forked hoes) to 40 groups of farmers (25 members each), and individual households in Kajo-Keji. Similarly, from 3-12 April 2023, a total of 500 people (298 Male and 202 Female) from the youth enterprise groups received farming inputs and vegetable seeds in Gulumbi and Lujulo Payams of Morobo County. These activities contributed to households' economic empowerment and lessened the push factor for youth to join armed forces and as well as improved their standards of living. The inputs breakdown was as follows:

Table 4: Types and number of items distributed to crop producers.

N/o	Item	Quantity Distributed
1	Hand hoes	504 pieces

2	Watering cans	300 pieces
3	Forked hoes	200 pieces
4	Rakes	200 pieces
5	Pangas	200 pieces
6	Triddle pumps (money makers)	20 pieces
7	Snap sack sprayers	40 pieces
8	Gumboots	500 pieces
9	Tape measures	20 pieces
10	Triddle pump pipes	2 rolls
11	Sisal ropes	40 pieces
12	Hand gloves	500 pieces
13	Watermelon seeds	517 Sackets (25gms)
14	Tomatoes seeds	500 Sackets (25gms)
15	Onion seeds	500 Sackets (25gms)
16	Cabbage	340 Sacket (25gms)
17	Damaged seed	160 Sackets (25gms)

Prior to receiving the farming inputs, the farmers and formed women and youth enterprise production groups were trained on CSA practices, and on cooperative governance and group dynamics. These groups received continuous agricultural extension services and training in enterprise development, gender and group dynamics through the gardens that are being established in each Payam.

G. Post-harvest Monitoring in Kajo-Keji and Morobo Counties

A post-harvest monitoring survey for the livelihoods support to 160 farmers groups was implemented by SPEDP with full support from IOM from 9-18 March 2023 (please see Annex XXVII – Post Harvest Monitoring Report). This survey was aimed at establishing: The average yields (harvest) from the seeds (inputs) categories distributed; How the beneficiaries used the inputs, vegetables, and tools provided; To obtain feedback from the beneficiary households regarding the main challenges faced during the pre- and post-harvest period; Recommendations from the farming groups for IOM, SPEDP and the rest of the CES RSRTF Consortium members to plan properly in the future. This survey resulted in the assessment of improvements in food crop production among beneficiaries supported by the CES RSRTF Consortium in Kajo-Keji and Morobo counties. The findings showed no significant improvement in the level of production since the sun heat scorched the crops, especially ground nuts and cabbages. However, testimonies from FGDs affirmed receipt of seeds and inputs, although they were delivered slightly late. The assessment helped to determine more additional inputs (recommendation on improved package of inputs package) which would be procured and distributed to meet the farmers' demands, especially hoes, pangas, gumboots, and forked hoes.

H. Formation of Communal (demonstrations) Gardens and Distribution of Farming Inputs

From 30 March to 6 April 2023, 300 beneficiaries (180 Male and 120 Female) were selected, verified, registered, and formed into communal farmers groups for the livelihood support. Specific farm inputs were selected in consultation with the respective farmers groups and local community leaders and inputs were procured. The distribution of farm inputs was organized in collaboration with the county agriculture departments of the respective three counties of Yei, Lainya and Morobo and members of the CES RSRTF Consortium to ensure that no duplication of activities happened in the same areas and build synergies and complementarity of 34 activities (please see Annex 18 – Inputs Donation). The distribution was organized in groups for the 300 beneficiaries in Yei, Lainya

and Morobo county. This has contributed to enhance skills of farmers in Yei in agriculture production and to support the restoration of agriculture livelihoods and build resilience of supported beneficiaries. From 5 to 9 June 2023, the programme team organized the establishment and setting of community gardens in Gulumbi and Lujulo Payams of Morobo County. A total of 14 groups were formed. Similarly, this activity built upon existing agricultural practices within Central Equatoria, which were thriving before the conflict but have diminished due to insecurity inhibiting access to farming land outside of stabilized areas.

I. Production and Marketing Planning

SPEDP conducted market linkages to farmer group with the business community. Farmers are now able to market and exported their vegetables to hotels and vegetable retailers in Koboko and Moyo districts of Uganda. Furthermore, the farmers are leveraging on the local market to sell their produce to earn income to support their households.

J. Drilling of a Borehole in Morobo

To improve access to safe and clean water, SPEDP completed the drilling of one borehole located near the women and girls' friendly space, the site is very safe and in a central point to attract women and girls to utilize the facility. The water facility continues to meet the water needs of the centre and as well as providing water to the communities adjacent to the centre.

K. Monitoring and Follow-up of Farmers Groups

The agricultural extension officers conducted technical backstopping sessions for farmers on recommended agronomic practices. Joint monitoring visits were also conducted with county agricultural officials to farmer groups to assess programme implementation progress, identify challenges, and offer technical advice. In addition, post-distribution monitoring was carried out throughout the programme to gauge the satisfaction level of farmer groups regarding the farming inputs they received and to solicit feedback to inform programme implementation. Despite the season being unfavourable due to delayed rains, 99 per cent of the farmers expressed satisfaction with the support provided. The technical assistance from the agricultural extension officers has yielded positive results, as farmers have been able to adopt recommended climate-smart farming technologies and practices. During the last quarter, IOM conducted monitoring visits to 300 of its beneficiaries supported during quarter three. The selected beneficiaries were supported through cash-for-work incentives to clear their farmland, tractor ploughing and harrowing, provision of simple farm tools, seeds of various types, and training on best agronomic practices conducted in partnership with the Department of Agriculture of the respective counties. During the visit, it was observed that all the 300 supported beneficiaries divided into 11 groups successfully cultivated their farms and planted all the seeds. They managed their gardens effectively with the knowledge provided and harvested their crops around October 2023. This activity has not only helped the beneficiaries improve their dietary needs, but also restored their livelihoods and generated some income from surplus agriculture produce.

Output 5b: Communities are assisted to rebuild their lives through livelihoods support.

A. Crop Producers (cooperatives) Support

A total of 4,000 households comprised of 5,702 people (2,901 Male and 2,801 Female) were mobilized, registered, and supported for crop producers (cooperatives) in Kajo-Keji with agricultural inputs, including tools (hoes), crop seeds (groundnuts) and vegetables seeds (tomatoes, onions, and

cabbage) (Please see Annex XXVIII- Seeds and Tools Distribution Report). Out of the households which were reached during the distributions, 230 were from the host communities, 140 were IDPs, 3,580 households were from the returnees' communities, and 50 households from the military personnel (prison and army) living with the targeted communities. This action has supported and contributed to the resilience of the people in Kajo-Keji and Morobo by helping them produce their own food.

B. TVET Rehabilitation and Trainings

As mentioned in the paragraphs above, FCA, in collaboration with other CES RSRTF Consortium partners, undertook a comprehensive initiative to rehabilitate and equip four TVET centres across various counties. The South Sudan Development Organization Vocational Training Institute (SSDO-VTI) and the Youth Vocational Training Centre (YVTC) in Yei County, Lainya Vocational Training Institute (LVTI) in Lainya County, and Leikor Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Kajo-Keji County were the focus of this effort. The rehabilitation efforts included crucial improvements such as constructing two toilet facilities at Leikor TVET and rehabilitating two dormitory blocks at YTVETI, aimed at promoting better hygiene practices and integrating a gender-sensitive approach within the institutions. Furthermore, the programme addressed infrastructure needs by repairing and handing over 21 broken beds at LVTI, facilitating accommodation for learners from various Payams and remote locations. In a bid to enhance access to electricity at these centres, the CES RSRTF Consortium supported the installation of solar power systems at LVTI and Leikor TVET centres, while two generators were installed at YVTC and SSDO-VTI, respectively. Solar systems, recognized for their eco-friendliness, were favoured over generators. The machinery provided by the generators was utilized for designing furniture, particularly beneficial for trainees in carpentry and joinery, aligning the training courses with current technological trends. A total of 363 individuals (178 Male and 185 Female) successfully completed their training and graduated from these centres. Three grand graduation ceremonies were organized, with one joint event held in Yei for YVTC and SSDO-VTI, and separate ceremonies conducted at Leikor TVI and LVTI. The graduation messages underscored the importance of peaceful coexistence. Remarkably, only six beneficiaries dropped out of the training. Following consultations with key stakeholders, FCA extended the TVET training by an additional two months to cover additional contents necessary for meeting proficiency certificate requirements.

Furthermore, 369 beneficiaries (209 female, 160 male) across the four centres underwent five-day training sessions in July and August 2023. The sessions aimed to equip participants with life skills and business opportunities related to their training, emphasizing business analysis and decision-making. The programme also continued to provide upkeep supplies for children's friendly spaces, supporting children whose parents were undergoing life skills training at the centres. Graduates from the TVET centres were provided with start-up kits, distributed in groups based on the traits of the various courses. Business plans submitted by these groups during the business skills training were supported to initiate self-reliance activities. The formation of mixed-member groups from different tribes aimed to promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among beneficiaries. Functional adult literacy training sessions were conducted twice a week across all TVET centres to provide basic numeracy and literacy skills to learners who lacked formal education opportunities. Over half of the beneficiaries continued accessing the training in the reporting quarter. The CES RSRTF Consortium ensured the capacity building of mentor tutors in using the South Sudan TVET competence curriculum. Training sessions were conducted for 46 tutors across all FCA-supported TVET centres, facilitating the adoption of a unified curriculum nationwide. Through such interventions, a level of national ownership has been assumed, addressing the challenge of unified curriculum implementation in South Sudan.

C. Mentorship of Centre Management Committees

The programme reinforced leadership and management of TVET by training the mentorship of Centre Management Committees across all the four TVET centres in various areas which included, minute taking, reporting and leadership. The three-day training benefited 41 Committee members (30 Male and 11 Female). Eleven (7 Male and 4 Female) were from Yei, 21 (16 Male and 5 Female) from Kajo-Keji County and 9 (7 Male and 2 Female) members from Lainya). This was part of the capacity building done to the TVET centres to ensure ownership while fostering sustainability.

D. Organization of Five Business and Entrepreneurship Trainings

To complement the actions of FCA, WPDJ organized five business and entrepreneurship trainings and ensured significant progress was made against output indicators, with a total of 202 beneficiaries (107 Male and 95 Female) attending. The trainings were organized to provide beneficiaries with tools to start their own business, make their business sustainable and provide employment to other community members. They were conducted in Otogo Payam in Yei River County, in Kangapo II and Liwolo Payams in Kajo-Keji county, and in Gulumbi Payam of Morobo County, Kenyi. Approximately 120 business plans were developed by the trainees who attended business management skills and entrepreneurship training, which are currently under review (please see Annex XXIX- CRE and Business Training).

E. VSLA Start-up Grants

To create access to rural finance and inculcate the culture of savings on local community members, The consortium formed and trained 12 VSLA groups consisting of 300 (84 Male, 216 Female) members in Yei, Lainya, Morobo and Kajo-Keji. These groups were supported to develop an informal constitution to guide their savings and lending schemes and a VSLA start up kits (Saving boxes, Passbooks, calculator, fine bags, rulers plastics chairs among others). Additionally, the groups received a seed startup capital of up to 1,750,000 SSP each or its equivalent in USD to kick start their savings and loans activities. A follow up meeting was done in the third week of September 2023 and the finding highlighted that the groups were functional and relevant. However, refresher trainings for the executive leaders of the groups to effectively manage these savings groups, including close follow up and mentorship are required. The CES RSRTF Consortium supported the VSLA groups with grinding mills as income generating activity to sustain and increase their savings. The three grinding mills were given to each of the counties under the management of VSLA grinding mill management committees. The emphasis was that the income generated from this investment will be accrued back into the individual saving groups in a uniformed ratio so that the members are able to access them easily. This was a genuine investment meant to promote self-reliance through value addition. The programme supported the development of the guidelines, the formation of the management committees and installed the grinding mills in their appropriate places.

F. Leadership training for executive members of the VSLA

FCA conducted a two-day leadership training for 25 executive members (16 Male and 9 Female) of the VSLA groups in Lainya. There were gaps observed during the first training in methodologies that encompasses VSLA activities. The target was purely the VSLA leadership, but the local government

decided to join the training and included five of their staff which enhanced collaboration, management, and support provision to the groups in Lainya county.

G. Conducting business boot camps (BBC) and Business Plan competition

The WPDI and the CES RSRTF Consortium's commitment to the resilience pillar translated into various livelihood activities, including business and entrepreneurship trainings for 800 community beneficiaries, Business Boot Camps (BBC), a business plan competition, and the disbursement of grants to support income-generating startups. Under the RSTF programme, WPDI organized 24 BBCs, with 266 participants (169 Male and 97 Female), encompassing youth, men, and women, across Morobo, Lainya, Yei, and Kajokeji counties from 19 April to 5 May 2023. During the competition, 169 business plans were presented, from which approximately 97 viable businesses were selected for grant awards under the RSRTF programme. Among the selected businesses, 36 are led by females and 61 by males. The distribution of businesses per county is as follows: Lainya county (22 small businesses), Yei County (25 small businesses), Kajo-Keji County (25 small businesses), and Morobo County (25 small businesses).

The business ventures proposed during the BBCs addressed various community needs, including beekeeping, clinics, motorcycle spare parts, vegetable and cereal crop farming, animal rearing, poultry keeping, grinding mills, event organizing, restaurants, motorcycle transportation, phone charging, food stores, and mixed goods shops. Business plan evaluations during the BBCs were conducted by a team comprising WPDI staff, other IPs of RSRTF, Chamber of Commerce staff, Payam executive directors, and staff from the county taxation department. In addition, WPDI facilitated the establishment of medium-sized businesses to provide higher-level services compared to small businesses. Four businesses were designated for this category, one in each county. This activity aimed to ensure full community participation in livelihood revival, income generation for families, and the creation of employment opportunities for youth and women across the four counties.

H. Creation of Child Friendly Spaces for TVET learners in Yei Vocational Training Centre (YVTC)

The FCA supported the creation of child friendly spaces for Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) learners and staff at the YVTC. The contribution included carrying out of minor renovation work and supply of essential items to aid in running of the centre. These were in addition to the monthly supplies FCA purchases for the centre. FCA completed renovation of two blocks at YVTC. The two blocks of dormitories were inclusive of five rooms (three rooms for males and two for females). FCA also oversaw the installation of water catchment tanks in both blocks including solar power to ensure the centre is loving towards self-sufficiency. The additions appeal to an environmentally friendly centre which is envisioned to house 60 learners. In Kajo-Keji, FCA supported the centre by completing installation of two new Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. The old facilities had incurred significant damage during the 2016 conflict giving students various difficulties while using them. The facilities are disaggregated by gender. In Lainya, FCA ensured adequate visibility for the sites by installing signposts with clear information on the CES RSRTF Consortium and the programme. The TVET centres in Lainya and Kajo-Keji admitted their first batch of students with both centres drawing a total of 255 (154 Female, 101 Male) persons admitted for various courses. The two centres in Yei have continued running with support from FCA. The FCA held a graduation ceremony for 125 (78 Male, 66 Female) persons from the two TVET centres in Yei. The joint graduation was graced by presence of a representative from the commissioner's office as well as presence of persons from their institutions an UN bodies. The event was attended by over 300 persons. To support the graduating class, startup kits were distributed to enable learners make

use of the skills they had gained from the TVET. These startup kits were material for groups of carpentry, tailoring and garment cutting, agri-business, hairdressing, and solar electricity technicians. Prior to the graduation, FCA had conducted a business skills training that guided the learners in developing business proposals. A key outcome of this training was the development of nineteen business proposals which were funded through provision of nineteen start up kits. The TVET centres continue to host Functional Adult Literacy classes for FCA sponsored students. This action has especially been appealing to students who might have had their education interrupted by the various cycles of violence/conflict and has served to bring them up to speed with the others. This action will further support the students in having better understanding of their businesses should they choose to go down that route.

I. Business Plan Completion

WPDI team of business experts, in coordination with the consortium, worked with 103 small businesses launched in July 2023 which were in their early stage of operations having been supported with grants to actualize their community enterprises and Income generating programmes (IGPs). The programme provided mentorship and coaching to the business owners to ensure the success of the businesses as they work hard to consolidate their initiatives in the communities in Southern CES. The monitoring and mentorship took place in all four counties. In average, 25 small businesses and 1 county level midsize IGP are rolled out and spread across the different Payams. So far, encouraging progress was reported in the business activities and services being provided through the businesses in the communities.

Outcome 6: (ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES) Reconciled communities have increased access to equitable and reliable basic services and reduced humanitarian aid dependency.

The CES RSRTF Consortium's efforts to enhance access to basic services in reconciled communities showed significant results, particularly in infrastructure development and rehabilitation projects. Construction and rehabilitation initiatives, including three customary law courts and two schools, were completed across the four target counties. The rehabilitation of health facilities and the installation of WASH infrastructure, such as latrines and boreholes, substantially improved access to healthcare and clean water. For instance, the rehabilitation of Gurujo Primary Health Care Unit in Kajo-Keji and Lasu Primary Health Care Centre in Yei, along with the provision of clean drinking water through newly drilled boreholes, are notable achievements. Additionally, the establishment of community radio stations in Morobo and Lainya counties bolstered access to information, enabling discussions on pertinent issues and fostering social cohesion. These initiatives signify tangible progress towards reducing humanitarian aid dependency and enhancing equitable access to reliable basic services in reconciled communities.

Output 6a. Early recovery promoted through rehabilitation/ construction of public infrastructure.

A. Construction and Rehabilitation of Three Courts and Two Schools

The construction and rehabilitation of three customary law courts in Kajo-Keji, Morobo and Yei were completed in 2023. These construction works included sanitation (latrine and incinerator) facilities. In Lainya county, there was an existing customary law court structure constructed by UNMISS and therefore the CES RSRTF Consortium under the leadership of IOM reconsidered providing furniture to equip the customary court. The resources planned for the court hall in Lainya were used to support other similar infrastructural activities of the programme. In addition, rehabilitation of the two schools (1 primary in Lainya county, Kenyi primary school and one secondary school in Morobo, Kanyara secondary school) and the two health facilities (Lasu Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) in

Yei County and Gurujo Primary Health Care Unit (PHCU) in Kajo-Keji county) were completed and handed over to the relevant local government (county) authorities. These infrastructures are operational and serving the benefiting communities.

B. Rehabilitation of WASH Facilities

IOM conducted technical assessments on the list of community infrastructures prioritized by the ARGs in each of the counties (please see Annex XXX- IOM WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response). Detailed inspection of the infrastructures was conducted and followed by the development of the structural designs, bill of quantities, and scope of work to be accomplished in the prioritized infrastructures, which were then presented to the ARG. The scope of work included the rehabilitation of infrastructures, including critical WASH infrastructures required to make the facilities functional. The selected centres included:

1. Kajo-Keji: Rehabilitation of Gurujo Primary Health Care Unit including the construction of new latrines.
2. Yei: Rehabilitation of Lasu Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) including the construction of new latrines and drilling of a new borehole
3. Morobo: Rehabilitation of Kanyara Secondary School including the construction of new latrines.
4. Lainya: Rehabilitation of Kenyi Primary School including the construction of new latrines.

In 2023, all infrastructure works were completed and the CES RSRTF Consortium under the leadership of IOM handed over a fully and newly drilled and constructed water yard facility to the health facility (Lasu PHCC) management and the local authorities in Yei County. The water yard is part of the programme support to supply the rehabilitated health facility (LASU primary health centre) with clean drinking water. This water facility is very important to support the water needs of the facility as the local government in Yei plans to re-open the inpatient department. The programme also extended a water collection point to the community with a catchment area of 1000 individuals in the area to access clean drinking water from the water facility. IOM also supported the community in facilitating the formation and training of water management committee to manage the water yard as sustainability strategy.

C. Establishment of Lyete FM in Morobo County of Unity FM in Lainya County

The constructions of the Lyete FM radio in Morobo and Unity FM in Lainya were completed. These FM radio stations are now providing access to information through awareness creation on political, social, cultural, and economic issues affecting the people of Morobo and Lainya counties. The community radio stations now act as a free social platform where people discuss their own issues and come up with tangible and local solutions which can quickly be conveyed to more listeners in a short period of time. Therefore, more issues will be resolved and thus resulting into strengthening social cohesion at the grassroots.

5. DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION AND CHALLENGES

Please indicate any delays in implementation, explain the cause of the delays and the implications on the programme overall.

What actions have been taken to address the circumstances which led to the delay?

Summarise any programmatic revisions undertaken during the reporting period.

The implementation of the programme faced several challenges, primarily stemming from insecurity related to armed cattle herders and poor road networks in the targeted counties. Persistent roaming of armed cattle herders and clashes between different armed groups threatened the progress achieved by the programme, risking food production and causing loss of life and property. In response to incidents like the killings in Kajo-Keji and Lainya counties, efforts were made by CES RSRTF Consortium members, particularly FCA, to engage religious leaders and advocate for non-violent solutions, which temporarily halted the cycle of revenge.

In addition, delays in implementation were exacerbated by difficulties in transporting programme items due to poor road conditions, particularly during the rainy season, and instances of armed robbery on roads, particularly in Morobo County. However, proactive measures such as renting vehicles suitable for the terrain and collaborating with county governments for security updates helped mitigate these challenges.

The programme was also affected by fluctuating inflation rates. In the first year, inflation surged due to the escalation of the Ukraine conflict, while in the second year, it was exacerbated by the economic crisis resulting from the blockage of the oil pipeline.

Programmatic revisions included utilizing existing infrastructures for activities and enhancing soft skills development among VSLA Group executive members to promote coexistence and conflict resolution. Lessons learned emphasized the importance of local coordination meetings, the role of religious leaders in facilitating dialogues, and the need to equip Peace Committees for future challenges, particularly during elections. Overall, while delays were encountered, proactive measures and collaborative efforts were undertaken to address the underlying issues and adapt programme strategies accordingly.

6. WOMEN AND YOUTH AS CHANGE AGENTS

To what extent are women being empowered by RSRTF initiatives and how do activities serve to promote positive images of women both as leaders and equal participants in peace processes? Provide examples.

What has the programme done to promote the effective participation of youth in the implementation of peace processes?

Who are the most influential agents of change with regard to achieving sustainable peace and how does the programme ensure their constructive engagement?

If applicable, highlight programme interventions targeting Persons with Disabilities.

The programme made significant strides in empowering women and promoting their positive image as leaders and equal participants in peace processes. While women and girls face formidable challenges in the highly patriarchal context of South Sudan, the programme succeeded in implementing different initiatives to increase women representation and support the strengthening of their roles in their communities. For instance, the CES RSRTF Consortium increased women's

involvement in civilian-military dialogues and radio talk shows, and women were also specifically targeted in VSLA activities and TVET trainings, even accommodating lactating mothers with childcare assistance. In addition, trainings on women's leadership and community protection groups were found successful in enhancing women's decision-making abilities and engagement in public spaces. Youth participation was also prioritized, with activities like civil-military dialogues and capacity-building sessions integrating gender sensitivity and youth empowerment. Notably, the CES RSRTF Consortium collaborated with UN Women on various initiatives to break cultural barriers and ensure women's inclusion in policy-making. Women and youth engagement extended to agricultural initiatives, environmental conservation, and community peace-building efforts, highlighting their crucial role in achieving sustainable peace. Overall, the programme's inclusive approach and targeted interventions were found beneficial to women and youth as agents of change in their communities.

7. MONITORING & EVALUATION

Please briefly describe any relevant activities undertaken for monitoring and evaluation of the programme. Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation.

Report on key Measuring Safety and Security (MSS) findings, if any, during baseline/midline studies as applicable. Any challenges in implementation of the MSS?

How effective was coordination of M&E activities among the ABP partners?

At the programme's inception, IOM devised an M&E framework for all CES RSRTF Consortium members to monitor progress during the first phase. The CES RSRTF Consortium established an M&E group to enhance data collection and reporting, with periodic field trips by implementing partners to ensure adherence to reporting timelines. The M&E officer addressed gaps and delays through follow-ups and collaborative problem-solving. In addition, the M&E framework integrated the RSRTF's MSS approach, developed by an anthropologist and the South Sudanese research outlet, the Bridge Network. This approach, consisting of surveys and participatory research, provides detailed insights into perceived security changes and their causal links to programme interventions.

The MSS report from June 2023, revealed the following:

- Improved safety and security perceptions: A comparison between qualitative and quantitative data suggests an overall improvement in safety and security perceptions, aligning with anecdotal analysis of the CES context. For instance, while previous interviews showed limited movement during insecurity, the latest survey indicated increased movement, cultivation, and confidence in road safety.
- Ongoing use of safety strategies: Despite perceived improvements, the majority of households continue to employ safety strategies, such as changing farming locations and moving in large groups, indicating underlying security concerns and the effectiveness of protective measures.
- Varied levels of safety: Safety perceptions vary significantly between locations and population groups, with women and children often feeling more insecure during routine tasks like firewood collection and travel to school. Concerns about movement after dark, particularly among youth, warrant further investigation, given their vulnerability to suspicion and violence from government forces.

Overall, while there are indications of improved safety and security, disparities persist, highlighting the need for nuanced approaches to address varying security dynamics across different locations and demographic groups.

The M&E framework incorporates IOM's DTM to monitor population movements and perceptions of return and reintegration. Four rounds of mobility tracking provided valuable data on displaced persons and returnees, aiding in understanding push and pull factors for returns in Southern CES. In phase II of the programme, the CES RSRTF Consortium aims to proactively improve M&E practices, ensuring the feasibility of all set indicators. This includes making sustainable investments in M&E capacity strengthening for IOM national staff and partners. Lastly, the CES RSRTF Consortium seeks to enhance M&E coordination and potentially roll out joint assessments to mitigate participant fatigue in target communities.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Please provide any relevant supporting documents including photographs of high quality with captions, news items, etc.

*In one page, provide a programme 'success story'. Ensure that the example reflects the **integrated approach of the programming activities** and **avoid speaking to how one intervention has changed the life of one programme participant**. The story should reflect on the value being achieved through **delivery of complementary activities** and **how these have contributed to positive change in the community**.*

*Alternatively, success stories can also reflect on the achievements of the **RSRTF coordinated approach**. What has been achieved by planning and working collectively? How have **local actors** been incorporated into planning and decision making and what is the added value of the RSRTF in this regard.*

Please add direct quotes from the subject of the story, or participants and key stakeholders of events/processes.

Please see success stories in Annex XXXI.

9. VALUE FOR MONEY

Describe any measures taken by the partners to ensure value for money for effective and efficient use of resources in programme implementation. Identify resource efficiencies achieved through co-financing of positions and establishment of shared premises or shared running costs across consortia members.

The programme has demonstrated a commitment to achieving value for money through efficient resource utilization and coordination among partners. Measures such as sharing vehicles, office spaces, and training premises have minimized operational costs while maximizing the impact of activities. For example, FCA and IOM shared office space and programme assets in Yei, optimizing

resources for both organizations. In addition, SPEDP's collaboration with the County Agricultural Department for seed germination testing ensured the distribution of viable seeds to farmers, avoiding potential financial losses from procuring non-viable seeds. Furthermore, field support supervision activities conducted by SPEDP verified the quality of implementation, tools, and seeds distributed to beneficiary groups, ensuring accountability and value for money. Monthly cash forecasts and staff training on reporting have further enhanced financial management, promoting efficient resource allocation and utilization. Overall, the programme's focus on shared resources and streamlined processes has contributed to achieving value for money and delivering high-quality goods and services to beneficiaries at minimal costs.

10. DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

N/A

11. ANY OTHER COMMENTS

Indicate any upcoming events or activities which could be incorporated into a possible monitoring visit by RSRTF donor and Steering Committee members.

List of Annexes:

1. Annex I – Updated Results Framework for Achieved Targets
2. Annex II – Lessons Learned
3. Annex III – Final Programme Evaluation
4. Annex IV – DTM Mobility Tracking Deliverables
5. Annex V – MSS Report June 2023
6. Annex VI – Mid-term Evaluation
7. Annex VII – DTM Return and Reintegration Surveys
8. Annex VIII – Liwolo De-Escalation Meeting Report
9. Annex IX – Liwolo De-escalation Meeting Attendance
10. Annex X – Consolidated Ten Dialogue Resolution
11. Annex XI – Training of Women-Led Community-Based Protection Groups
12. Annex XII – Training on Positive Masculinity and Peacebuilding
13. Annex XIII – Kajo-Keji Customary Law Validation Workshop Report
14. Annex XIV – Terekeka Customary Law Validation Workshop Report
15. Annex XV – Women Peace Network Training Curriculum
16. Annex XVI – Community Policing Training
17. Annex XVII – Donation Acceptance Form
18. Annex XVIII – HLP Related Beneficiary Engagement and Preliminary Baseline Assessment Report
19. Annex XIX – CBPCs Training Report
20. Annex XX – Women's Centres Sustainability Committees Training Manual
21. Annex XXI – ADR Toolkit
22. Annex XXII – Women Peace Network Leadership Training
23. Annex XXIII – Women Centre Sustainability Training
24. Annex XXIV – Youth Peace Strategy Draft Report
25. Annex XXV – Donation Acceptance Form Women Association

26. Annex XXVI – Women and Youth Enterprise Development
27. Annex XXVII – Post Harvest Monitoring Report
28. Annex XXVIII – Seeds and Tools Distribution Report
29. Annex XXIX – CRE and Business Training
30. Annex XXX – IOM WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response
31. Annex XXXI – Success Stories