

**Supported by the**

**UN Peacebuilding Fund**

**BEYOND BENTIU PoC YOUTH RE-INTERGRATION PROJECT**

**LIVELIHOOD BENEFICIARY SELECTION REPORT**

1. **OVERVIEW**

IOM, in collaboration with UNDP, are implementing a youth re-integration peace-building project in Bentiu with support from the peace-building fund (PBF). This intervention aims to target beneficiaries beyond the Bentiu PoC. The main objective of the project is to strengthen economic and social interdenpence, for youth IDPs, returnees and host community through livelihoods and rehabilitation of critical infrasture. Four partners implement the livelihood component of the project: Community Health and Development Organization (CHADO), Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), Humane Aid for Community Organization (HACO) and Integrated Development Organization (IDO). Three of the partners; CHADO, RCDI and HACO are funded by IOM while IDO is funded by UNDP.

The implementing partners conducted a joint livelihood beneficiary identification and selection process. The selection process focused on identifying the most vulnerable youths for livelihood support in areas of PoC, Rubkona and Bentiu town. The process was done in collaboration with the community. This involved consultations and participation of all relevant stakeholders throughout each step of the process including planning, advertising, application support, selection, evaluation, verification and validation of the youth livelihood beneficiaries. This approach supported community ownership and involvement, while also making the process more transparent.

1. **ACTIVITIES**

During the selection process, many activities were carried out in line with the process of fairness, effectiveness and transparency as detailed below:

**Advertisement**

In order to inform all the stakeholders and potential applicants who could benefit from the project, an advertisement was released for three consecutive days from 15th -17th September 2018. In the process, consultations were done with youth leaders and other community leaders to come up with the best strategy to conduct the process. The adverts were placed at major points where youth can have easy access including markets, youth centers and public notice boards both in English and in Nuer local language. In the adverts, critical elements were mentioned such as the party conducting the process, where to pick up application forms, eligibility, locations and start and closing dates for the application.

**Application process**

The application process followed the adverts process and took place for five days from 18th - 22th September 2018. Application forms were placed in three centers: Bentiu Poc youth center, Rubkona youth center and Bentiu town humanitarian hub where interested applicants could pick the applications forms, fill and submit to the receiving officers at the respective centers. The officers in charge at the centers helped some applicants who encountered challenges in interpreting some of the questions asked in the application form.

**Coding of application forms**

To avoid mix up of application forms, the application forms were coded for two days from 24rd – 25th September 2018. Applications were coded by giving a different registration number to each applicant from the respective application centers. This was to support identification, tracing, determine the exact number of applicants and prevent mix-up of application forms. . A total of 5,719 applications were received from the three centers (3,000 from Bentiu PoC, 1,600 Rubkona and 1,119 Bentiu town). The various stakeholders were informed on the dates for the selections and evaluation process in the three centers of Bentiu PoC, Rubkona and Bentiu town during these two days.

**Selection and evaluation of beneficiaries**

Selection and evaluation of successful applicants was done from 26th – 28th September 2018 after consultation and development of terms of reference (TOR). The process was conducted in the respective centers where the application were received. A selection team was formed which included the representatives from implementing partners, youth leaders, community, and local authorities. This representative selection team helped ensure the process was transparent to every stakeholder.

**Data entry, consolidation and cleanup**

The details of the candidates selected for the livelihood support program were captured through the data entry process in the creation of a database. This information was entered by a data entry clerk, who was selected by the implementing partners, for five days from 2nd- 8th October 2018. 1,170 beneficiaries were entered in the livelihood database. A data cleanup process was done to consolidate the entire list and crosscheck all the information including duplicate names.

This was followed by dividing the beneficiaries among the four implementing partners. The division process took gender of applicants into consideration. The total number of selected beneficiaries was disaggregated by gender and divided according to the targets of each implementing partner. It was noted that since the process was open and interest base, majority of applicants were female which constituted 64% of the total number of successful beneficiaries.

**Validation and verification of final beneficiaries**

A team of stakeholders was called for a one-day validation process on 15th October -2018 to endorse the final list of beneficiaries. These stakeholders were involved in the selection process and additional top decision makers in the youth leaderships, local community and local authority’s leaders. The validation process was done separately in the three centers. The stakeholders involved were briefed on the outcomes and the final list was endorsed and signed.

Applications both for successful and unsuccessful applicants were filed for reference purposes.

Below is the summary of final beneficiaries endorsed by the validation committee.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Partners** | **Location** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| CHADO | PoC | 86 | 172 | 258 |
| Rubkona | 110 | 137 | 247 |
| **Subtotal** | **196** | **309** | **505** |
| RCDI | Bentiu town | 135 | 165 | 300 |
| **Subtotal** | **135** | **165** | **300** |
| HACO | Bentiu town | 20 | 55 | 75 |
| Rubkona | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| **Subtotal** | **45** | **105** | **150** |
| IDO | Bentiu town | 10 | 40 | 50 |
|  | PoC | 24 | 91 | 115 |
|  | Rubkona | 20 | 30 | 50 |
|  | **Subtotal** | **54** | **161** | **215** |
|  | **Grand total** | **430** | **740** | **1170** |

1. **CHALLENGES**

* Though the application was made simple, some applicants were not able to fill the information correctly due to limitations in basic education
* There was illicit photocopying of applications forms which negatively impacted the quality of application forms submitted and created a mismatch between the printed and received application forms
* The application process was open which made control of applications by gender difficult. As a result, a majority of the applicants were female
* There were a lot of expectations from the youths as over 5,700 applied for the assistance but only 1,170 were selected for the assistance

1. **LESSONS LEARNED**

* Involving local community leaders and authorities in programming is very important as it creates transparency and ownership of the process
* During the process, it was realized that gender segregation was not factored in the selection process. Therefore, majority of those selected were female. This has affected target number of beneficiaries by gender by the implementing partners. For future programming, there is need to categorized target beneficiaries by gender in the selection process in order to ensure uniformity with project proposal targets.
* Consistency in reporting target numbers is key to smooth programming and selection process of livelihood beneficiaries. For future programing consistency in reporting beneficiaries, targets should be critically taken into consideration. Stakeholders involve in such process should have consistent figures.
* A module for selecting beneficiaries based on interest of livelihood assistance matched with target per livelihood activity in the project proposal should be developed.
* Publishing the names of successful beneficiaries on the notices board is key as it ensures transparency and trust. The relevant stakeholder should however, own this process. These will ensure owners in case there are questions that will be raise by unsuccessful applicants.

1. **CONCLUSION**

As the process was inclusive and involved all the relevant stakeholders. There is no doubt that all the stakeholders were satisfices with the process .There were no complains or questions raised by any stakeholders hence this approach is one that can be adapted and used for future programming taking into consideration the lessons learnt.