|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Program Submission Reference | Program Title  | Food security and agricultural development project Magwi |
| Submission Date | February 10th, 2023 |
| Organization Name | Sustainable Initiative for Development Organization |
| Organization Information | Acronym | SIDO |
| Name of Organization Head | Mukulia John Teip |
| Title  | Executive Director (ED) |
| Email  | johnteip21@gmail.com  |
| Phone  | +211 920 179 092/+211 916 712 576 |
| Name of Program Focal Point. | Denis Okello Muno |
| Title | Project Development Coordinator |
| Email | denomu@gmail.com |
| Telephone | +211927349431 |
| Program Information | Location | Obbo and Pajok Payams, Magwi County Eastern Equatoria  |
| Program Duration | 6 Months |
| Budget |  | **USD 61,418** |

**Background and Problem Summary**

The transitional context of South Sudan has rendered most government systems weak and the population vulnerable to the health risks associated with poverty and fragility. The emergence of the coronavirus pandemic is exposing the country’s vulnerability to external shocks, given its overdependence on oil resources. Food insecurity and poverty are widespread across South Sudan, linked to conflict, the disruption and loss of economic activities, displacement of the population, lack of basic infrastructure and the erosion of livelihood options. South Sudan faces one of the worst humanitarian and food-security situations in the world, with at least 7.5 million people relying on external assistance to meet their food needs. (WFP January 2020 report)

With about 80 percent of the population relying on agricultural production to meet their food and income needs, strengthening the agriculture sector is very paramount. Livelihoods are a vital means of making a living. It encompasses people’s capabilities, assets and activities required to secure the necessities of life. The shocks and stresses of the COVID-19 crisis worldwide has had a much broader impact on South Sudan’s economy this has not only diminished the well-being and livelihoods of people, but also undermined the social nets, markets and food security on which life depends. Both lives and livelihoods are at risk from this pandemic.

The proposed 6 months project will be implemented in Pajok and Obbo Payams, Magwi County, Eastern Equatoria state targeting 10 Farmer Field Schools in two Payams 5 in Obbo and Pajok Payams respectively who are predominately peasantry communities with little knowledge of modern agricultural practices and income generating opportunities leading to problems of food insecurity, poverty and environmental degradation. The 10 FFS groups will be established in each of the 10 Bomas including (Obbo Payam) Lisari, Lowudo, Aliya, Lerwa and Lapato Bomas and (Pajok Payam) Bomas including Pajok, Pogie, Lawachie, Logier and Saigon Bomas. By having these FFS groups in each Boma, will become a pilot learning scheme to start transitioning from peasantry traditional farming ideology to modern farming practices to reduce the persistent crisis of hunger and poverty affecting the entire communities in the two Payams.

The main outcome of the action will be food security has improved for the population affected by conflicts and malnutrition. And to achieve these SIDO will use the Farmer Field Schools’ (FFS) strategy due to the current COVID-19 pandemic to implement the project with focus on agricultural development where farmers are trained directly from their fields as opposed to classroom training .The target group for this action will consists of returnees and the local population, how-ever for project implementation there will be no distinction. The Farmer Field School (FFS) approach is rather informal and practical way to disseminate agricultural input and knowledge to small holder farmers. By supporting the establishment of FFS, SIDO aims to achieve local food security on the micro level, Food security shall be achieved by increasing agricultural productivity and generating income through the sale of surplus food crops. The potential for contributing to a regional and national food security exists due to a large agricultural potential in the Greenbelt region that has not been exhausted yet. 70% of total land in South Sudan is suitable for crop production and only 4% is being used (Fews.net 2009, FAO 2012). The first step will be the co-operation with WFP P4P, which will buy and store produce from FFS. This will link farmers to the market and give WFP the possibility to look into supplying deficiency regions in South Sudan.

Support to the County Agriculture Department (CAD). SIDO will strengthen the CAD to build up relevant government structures and to guarantee long-term support and guidance for farmers and FFS, training to the CAD will be provided and they will be supported to build knowledge and capacities within FFS groups on where to acquire information. SIDO will provide appropriate extension material through manuals, hand-outs, posters that are also appropriate for illiterate people.

Basic training on agribusiness and farm management including development of business plans will be integrated in the FFS ToT to strengthen farmers’ market-oriented planning capacities to build group storage facilities that have the capacity to link FFS to WFP warehouses or to attract wholesale buyers to communities along feeder roads. SIDO will strengthen groups by training 1-2 people in the group to act as lead farmers, promoting communal laboring within the groups, introducing a self-financing system and other services provided to ensure long-term success.

## **Needs Analysis and Justification**

South Sudan should be a country full of hope 11 years after gaining independence. Instead it’s now in the grip of a massive humanitarian crisis. Political conflict, compounded by economic woes and drought, has caused massive displacement, raging violence and dire food shortages. Over 7 million people are in need of aid, including around 6.9 million people experiencing hunger.

Food security is expected to deteriorate more, with 7.7 million people estimated to face crisis levels of hunger with the onset of the lean season, the period of time between harvests when food stores are low.

With the emergence of COVID 19 pandemic, South Sudan’s economy will be severely impacted. Oil revenues accounted for about 80% of GDP in 2018 and over 90% of total revenue and export earnings in 2019. Consumer and investor confidence will remain subdued as consumption and investment decisions are postponed due to the anticipated global economic slowdown. Remittances accounted for 35% of GDP (USD 1.26 billion) in 2018 and the expected reduction in remittance inflows will reduce consumption and exacerbate poverty and income inequality. Consequently, in 2020, the economy is forecasted to contract to -3.6% and -1.5% in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

The Government of the Republic of South Sudan’s National Development Strategy (NDS) covering the period 2018–2021 has identified service delivery as one of the key priorities. The strategic objectives of the service delivery cluster include creating a cohesive social service system and effective coordination mechanisms; increasing inclusive access and coverage of social services; expanding and improving social infrastructure; promoting partnership among all stakeholders; and, strengthening human and institutional capacity for efficient and effective social services.

South Sudan is divided into six agro-ecological zones: the “Arid Belt”, the “Flood Plains”, the “Hills and Mountains”, the “Ironstone Plateau”, the “Nile-Sobat Corridor”. Obbo and Pajok payams lies in the Greenbelt Zone the most fertile cereal growing area of South Sudan. The greenbelt zone stretches across Western, Central, and Eastern Equatoria States and is a traditional surplus-producing agricultural region, also known as the ‘bread-basket’ of South Sudan. Farming practices applied by farmers in the “Greenbelt area” are based on traditional and low yielding methods. Cereal yields are on average below 800 kg per ha (GOSS 2011). The agricultural potential of the area has not yet been tapped. The Greenbelt is endowed with extensive natural resources, namely humid tropical forest cover, which is supported by a deposit of heavy fertile clay soils and has a bimodal rainfall of around 1100-1600 mm (SSCCSE 2007, WFP 2012).

Magwi town is situated 900m above the sea surrounded by mountain ridge that rises up to 2500m from the east, relief lowers into a plain from the south, which demarcates the Madi land. Rainfall has a bimodal distribution with an annual quantity of 1,100 to 1,300 mm per year (WFP 2012). The first rainy season occurs from April/May to July, the second rainy season from September to October/November. Suitable areas for dry season agricultural production are limited. The best sites for dry season vegetable production include: The floodplains of the White Nile**,** the Ayii River, Atepi River, Aswa River; andThe Montane valleys. Typical Food and Cash Crops are; cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, and sorghum are major food crops for farmers in Magwi County. Communities in Magwi are predominantly agriculturalists they are not involved in livestock activities on a commercial basis. Livestock is mainly kept as collateral. Poultry and goats are commonly raised for that purpose. Overall, farmers’ market access situation is good due to tarmac road between Nimule and Juba. This road has the potential to link farmers to high value markets such as Juba, Nimule, Torit, Amee Junction, Kerepi, and Pageri, where crops are sold at higher prices per basin than along the feeder roads. In Magwi and specifically Obbo and Pajok, the potential to avert food hunger and poverty is ideally realistic given the suitability of the areas and its fertile soils for variety crop production both commercial and subsistence purposes. The inability to break the vicious circle of poverty and hunger is attributed to lack of creativity, poorly traditional methods of farming, lack of access to bulky buyers for those with fairly large farms. In late 2019, Swarms of desert locusts invaded greater Magwi County that resulted to massive destruction of crops and it is expected that a second and third wave of the desert locust will invade the areas again with devastating impacts including hunger and loss of confidence in crop farming by the farmers.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will operate in two fields of activity that can be expanded depending on the development of the situation on the ground. These are: the direct improvement of the nutritional status of target groups; and the resumption and expansion of agricultural production.

**Field of activity 1:** Improve the nutritional status of malnourished children and women. This relieves an acute emergency situation and eases the hunger crisis.

**Field of activity 2**: Is structured in such a way that farming families will produce more food. In the medium term and after harvesting, these families can then stabilize food security and reduce dependency on food aid. The project will support families from areas where there is the potential for bigger harvests so that surpluses can be produced for the market in the medium to long term.

The project raises awareness of nutrition, health and hygiene issues among parents and other persons responsible for looking after children. At a local level, teams from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security are involved in the activities, thereby developing their skills in implementing state support measures for target groups.

**Implementation Strategy.**

This project falls under SIDO’s first strategic objective of “Transiting to Sustainable Agriculture and Linkages to Markets (TSALM)”. The major focus is as farmers continue to engage in subsistence farming while learning through the FFS and established groups, they should be gradually transitioning to a commercial farming after improving their production capacity where surplus are starting to be realized. This project’s strategy combines emergency aid, rehabilitation and development. SIDO will use measures that are effective in short term and can be supplemented by measures that focus more strongly on reconstruction and development as described below;

**Farmer Field Schools and training of trainers (FFS):** The approach will be used to teach agricultural techniques and management skills that improve farmers’ knowledge gaps and make them experts on their own farms this is to build farmers’ capacity to analyze their production systems, identify problems, test possible solutions and eventually adopt the practices that are most suitable to their farming systems and since farmers are taught from their gardens, this will minimize the spread of COVD-19. The knowledge acquired during the learning process will enable farmers to adapt their existing technologies to be more productive, profitable and responsive to changing conditions and adapt new technologies. FFS promote technology generation from bottom-up using local resources, local knowledge and local deliberation for development. The basic idea of the FFS approach is to create a space in which a prolonged and concentrated exchange of innovations can be fostered among participating farmers.These FFS groups will consists of about 15-30 participants who meet regularly in a group field to discuss and experiment. The topics will include production and marketing related problems. Each FFS group will be supervised by a facilitator who contributes knowledge on new technologies or business models. He/she will receive training from a master trainer.



*FFS Training structure*

**Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD);** South Sudan context is still fragile, situation may change suddenly, making humanitarian/survival aid necessary again. SIDO will continue to partner with relief agencies like WFP, ICRC and other agencies to link relief and rehabilitation to development. SIDO will keep various instruments at its disposal to address various stages of food and nutrition security.

**Resilience approach;** Strategies to increase the resilience of small-scale farmers will include increasing their productivity to improve their buffer capacity, and to strengthen farmers’ organizational and self-learning capacities.

* **Increased productivity:** Productivity will be increased by improving agronomic practices in terms of labour and natural resource efficiency and by improving marketing opportunities for crops. SIDO will link the farmers to potential buyers such as WFP and whole sale buyers.
* **Improved buffer capacity**; SIDO will improve ability of farming household to absorb social, economic, or environmental changes before the household’s livelihood options collapse, this will be through crop diversification. Farmers planting more than one type of crops and have more than one way to sell their products: If a pest or disease destroys one crop, or if the price for a certain crop is down, the other crop species are still there to compensate.
* **Higher degree of organization.** SIDO will ensure that farmers who participates in FFS become a producer co-operative selling products for better market conditions. SIDO will support the farmers to develop a fundable business plans and link them to financial institutions to provide financial support. Through regular exchange with extension workers, the FFS group will also be able to communicate community-based development priorities to local government authorities.
* **Higher adaptive capacity of individual farmers**. SIDO will organize exchange field visits for FFS to strengthen the capacity of individual farmers to search for knowledge and information in the absence of a functioning agricultural extension system.

**Food and nutrition security approach;** SIDO will emphasize the ‘Use and Utilization’ of food, not just ‘Availability’ and ‘Accessibility’. SIDO will ensure farmers have enough food available through production and all households and individuals within those households have sufficient appropriate food for a nutritious diet. The resources necessary to gain access to food are food production, income for food purchases, or in-kind transfers of food (whether from other private citizens, national or foreign governments or international organizations).

**Sustainable agriculture;** the overall purpose of sustainable agriculture is to protect income opportunities for farmers, nutritional security, and environmental services for future generations. SIDO’s ultimate goal is to develop farming systems that are productive and profitable, conserves the natural resource base, protect the environment, and enhance health and safety, and to do so over the long-term. The means of achieving this is low-input methods and skilled management, which seeks to optimize the management and use of internal production inputs in ways that provide acceptable levels of sustainable crop yields and livestock production and result in economically profitable returns.

**Theory of Change:** The theory of change is based on evidence from SIDO’s experience gained through our long-term, comprehensive programs aimed at liberating human potential. SIDO’s programs are tailored to each community and rely on particular factors affecting people in crisis.

During our previous work, SIDO has observed that one of communities’ greatest needs is to gain economic independence. The most reliable way to help communities to implement programs is to provide practical skills and knowledge in modern and simple farming methods and establishing a small business for small holder farmers.



## Objectives and Results.

## The objective of this project is, increased food security and incomes through improved agricultural productivity and links to the markets.

**Project Outputs and Activities.**

**Output 1.** Community mobilization and participatory planning meetings. SIDO will create awareness in the communities and the state local authorities through creating participatory meetings and workshops. Through this process, the beneficiaries will own the project and will understand objective of the project in addition, SIDO will use this mobilization and participatory meetings to identify the directly targeted beneficiaries that will constitute the FFS groups.

**Activities for Output 1.**

**Activity i.** Local government awareness and mobilization. SIDO will conduct one (1) mobilization and awareness with the local authorities in Magwi County about the project. This will bring to the attention of the local government about this project since the activities will be majorly conducted in the Bomas for security reason. In case of any access constraints the state and local authorities can facilitate and support the implementation of the project.The state ministry of agriculture will also benefit from the project through refresher training and will be focal points to monitor, support and pick over from SIDO after end of the project.

**Activity ii.** Community-beneficiaries’ mobilization. SIDO will conduct 10 community-beneficiaries mobilization through participatory meetings. It will be through this meetings that direct target beneficiaries will be identified and grouped into the FFS groups in all 10 Bomas of Obbo and Pajok Payams.

**Activity iii.** ToT trainings conducted. SIDO will conduct 5 rounds of trainings for 30 Trainers of Trainees. The trainers will be selected from the community who at least have a good background in agronomy. By having this from the community, will ensure collective and mass participation and ownership of the project by the beneficiaries and out of the number of trainers, at least 45% (14) must be women.

**Output 2.** Community capacity building is enhanced through FFS practical learning. As explained in the implementation strategy, FFS approach is the ideal way of imparting practical agricultural knowledge to farmers. The approach is also simple to understand as it involves practical activities adding to its being easy for both educated and uneducated farmers.

**Activities for Output 2.**

**Activity i.** Capacity building and training on modern agricultural practices. SIDO will conducted 60 capacity building trainings for the identified farmers out of which, 30 will be in class and 30 out of class (field trainings). This will include topics like, raw planting, identification of crop pests and its management, weeding of crops, mulching of crops,

**Activity ii.** Identification and formation of FFS groups. Having gone through the participatory meetings in all the 10 Bomas of the 2 payams, SIDO will identify and form 10 FFS groups each comprising of 30 members totaling to 300 farmers.

**Activity iii.** Establishment of demo plots. SIDO will establish 10 demo plots for practical learning in all 10 Bomas of Pajok and Obbo respectively. The agronomical practices will be conducted in these demo plots. A piece of land of about 10m by 10 will be prepared by the FFS group members with supervision of SIDO agronomists. SIDO will engage with the community to ensure non-objection to have this piece of agricultural land for this activity.

**Activity iv.** Distribution of seeds. SIDO will engage with the FFS group members, farmers and the local state authorities to ensure access to free seeds to be planted in the demonstration farms through the FSL cluster. The seeds will include; maize, sorghum, beans, groundnuts etc. however the right seed/s to be planted will be agreed by the FFS and SIDO during the beneficiaries participatory meetings.

**Activity v.** Exchange visits. During certain phase of the project, SIDO will facilitate FFS group exchange visits between and among themselves to assess. This way, groups will have yet another avenue to share best practices, discuss challenges, and collaborate on next steps. This will also encourage knowledge sharing between the FFS groups and individual farmer’s field/farms and beyond the communities at large in the target areas. SIDO’s agronomist will assess the FFS groups that have not performed well to visit those with better performance. Approximately, over 5 exchange visits will be conducted but depending on the performance of the FFS groups and will be agreed during the implementation phase.

**Output3.** Improved crops and seeds management through trainings. One of the challenges encountered by farmers in Magwi and across South Sudan is the way harvests and seeds have been managed. Lack of storage facilities for harvested crops, farmers use ineffective traditional method of seeds drying which makes crops and seeds susceptible to pests, insects and rodents. It is estimated that 20% of farmers harvest go wasted due to such challenges mentioned above. To address this challenge as well, the FFS group members will be trained on Post-harvest management techniques, trained on construction of storage facilities and proper storage of crops/harvest to increase or retain the value of harvested crops. The following activities will be undertaken;

**Activities for Output 3.**

**Activity i.** 10 Post-harvest trainings to 300 famers in the 10 FFS groups. All FFS group members will undergo post-harvest training on crops and seeds management, storage and handling. The training will be provided by SIDO agronomist, FSL manager and FSL officer.

**Activity ii.**Construction of 10 FFS group pilot granaries.SIDO will facilitate the construction of 10 local granaries each for the FFS groups established. Due to lack of sufficient funds, SIDO will encourage each FFS groups to build one granary by using the local materials including; poles, reeds, ropes and also use of the abundant clay soils in the areas. Each individual in the groups will be expected to build his or her granary and the idea should go far beyond the direct beneficiaries.

**Output 4.** Micro projects undertaken by community interest groups increase farm and off farm production and sale. SIDO FSL team will facilitate establishment of micro projects within the established FFS groups based on the beneficiaries choices. Any member can swift a group based on his or her preference. These micro-projects will be expected to expand into farmers’ cooperative groups who would be contacted for bulky purchases. SIDO will lobby for further funding in future to develop these cooperative groups into Savings and Loaning Association Groups who will promote commercial agricultural, access to market, direct contact with bulk purchases.

**Activities for Output 4.**

**Activity i.** Business management training including sustainability business plan. SIDO will conduct business management training for the 10 groups in combined sessions of five (2 groups per 2 sessions for all the 10 FFS groups).The famers in the areas do not know how to manage their finances leaving to either miss use or loss of their money. SIDO will address this through providing business training specifically on topics including; financial literacy training, identification of viable alternative business during lean season/off agricultural seasons.

**Activity ii.** Farmers-Linkage to markets. SIDO will facilitate linkage between the farmers groups and markets across the country. Majority farmers in Greater Magwi do not have specific price and where to sell their agricultural products in addition; they sell their products premature when prices are at below par. SIDO will address these by looking for farmers and them with buyers across the country.

## Sustainable Initiative for Development Organization (SIDO)

### Who we are

SIDO is a National Non-Governmental Organization (NNGO) founded in 2017 and registered under South Sudan NGO Act 2016 registration № 1119 by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) under the Ministry of Disaster and Humanitarian Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan. Our Idea is promoting and instilling culture of self-reliance through engaging in productive activities including; Technical vocational education and training, agricultural production on both subsistence and commercial purpose, engaging greater number of women in our programming as they are seen to be breadwinners of the families, promoting community owned initiatives such as youth empowerment in business and employability skills, community farmlands, demonstration farms to bolster co-existence that can reduce hostilities within and among communities. Promoting long term and holistic food security measures while instilling financial literacy skills and promoting Village “Voluntary Savings and Loaning Schemes” to ensure precautionary savings ensuring that gender parity is taken seriously to advocate for gender equality, women empowerment, protection, and fighting against GBV in our areas of implementation. Investing in education is a tool of transitioning to peaceful communities, societies and South Sudan at large.

### Our Work in South Sudan

We implemented livelihood project specifically “improving food availability through provision of agricultural inputs and better farming practices in Rajaf Payam-Juba County”; by distribution of vegetable seeds, agricultural tools (Hand hoes, watering can, and slashers) to establish nursery beds, demo plots, kitchen gardens for communities in Rajaf Payam-Juba County. We planted short term crops including; groundnuts, beans whose leaves make delicious food locally known as *korofo.* We also planted dodo *(amarantus species), Okra, kale, Sukuma wiki*.The project supported over 500 beneficiaries with 60% women. .

We trained over 30 youths in vocational skills, business management and finance literacy in Juba in 2018. We covered topics aimed at sustaining the local South Sudanese entrepreneurs in the market given the economic crisis that have pushed many South Sudanese out of the markets.In addition, new potential and innovative youths attended the training and were able to showcase glimpses of entrepreneurial skills for their future businesses.

To date, over 100 at-risk youths have graduated, and most have gone on to start small businesses or find employment. The graduates have also been hired by the different companies to do building projects in Juba and the surrounding.SIDO's additional programs are focused on promoting skills and education for orphans and vulnerable children throughout Juba. We have continued to monitor the progress of our project beneficiaries’ businesses to provide technical support where they feel need is paramount.

After community dialogues on how to reduce poverty among local widows and single mothers, tailoring training was introduced and both programs are ongoing and contribute greatly to creating hope and opportunity in the community. Graduates have started successful businesses, and the tailoring program sews uniforms for local schools.

## **MONITORING, EVALUATION, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Regular monitoring and evaluation will be conducted, and dialogues will be held with community leaders and other stakeholders. These activities will help identify the pathway to integration and provide insight into barriers or service gaps which can be addressed to ensure project success and increase the long-term impact of the overall intervention. Monthly reports will be provided, along with financial reports and photos of activities.

**PROJECT STAFFS**

SIDO will recruit and deploy one project manager, two project assistants, Logistic and Finance Officers, to support staff to run the project.

**Project Manager** will be responsible for managing and facilitating the project ensuring an integrated approach in

Project implementation. Lead the day today management to ensure programme objectives and reporting deadlines are met. Manage all field operations related to the programme with direction from the project director

according to the programme work plan, programme budget and implantation strategy. Monitor programme implementation, measure impact, and calibrate programme strategy and implementation accordingly. Ensure that all work follows international quality standards and best practices, and those Agriculture initiatives are technically and environmentally sound.

**Project finance manager** is responsible for ensuring donor, organizational, governmental procedures and compliance are followed on finance and HR areas. He will compile and submit donor financial reports and monthly invoices. For this project, he will be the focal person on issues related with finance and contracting. Issue monthly project management accounts to the project manager and meet with each monthly to discuss the results, amend mid‐posting and other errors, assist Project Manager to plan future expenditure and cash needs and to take remedial action where there are overspends, assist the project manager in triennial forecasting of project and core expenditure for South Sudan offices, analyse project expenditure to ensure value‐for‐money, maintain a database of costing to enable cross‐project comparisons to be made and to assist and speed up the preparation of new project budgets by technical staff, review all legal contracts and ensure SIDO complies with company and charity law, assist the Country Finance Manager in improving financial systems by providing ideas based on day‐to‐day experience, ensure that SIDO South Sudan procurement activities are in accordance with SIDO and donor procurement policies and practices, Prepare donor financial reports in conjunction with the project manager on a timely basis and with the frequency required by the donor, assist Project Manager in the compiling of budgets for the project.

**Project development coordinator** is responsible for coordination and representation at Juba level (with donors including USAID, national level clusters and forums), ensuring quality of programs implemented at field level (through quarterly site visit, report review before submission to donors, availing program quality tools, etc.) and monitoring and evaluation (including ensuring the programme manager is monitoring the M&E plans of the project). He will also work closely with the program director/Country director for coordination of program activities at Juba level. The programme manager of this project will report to the project development coordinator. In this project, the project development coordinator will be the contact person for this project related with technical part of the program including M&E related issues.

**Project assistants** will be responsible for the day to day field activities one in each payam, they will conduct community sensitization, support formation and trainings to the farmer field schools and conduct on job trainings. They will report to the project manager.

**Project Sustainability.**

On one hand, FFS groups are meant to be a one-time bound exit strategy. The groups would continue to work together beyond the project completion. In addition to the established linkages to markets and bulky buyers of agricultural products, would act as a bond and formation of other future agricultural Cooperatives. As SIDO will select and train the ToT from the community, they will be secondary points of contact to these FFS groups and other future engagement as well as guiding the farmers when needs arises

**Advocacy**

• Strong advocacy on behalf of the Government of South Sudan to allocate more resources for Agriculture, Since most farmers had been in exile in Uganda they will be motivated to carry out farming as a business hence sustainability beyond the project period.

• Involve additional partners (UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and local and international stakeholders) to mobilize additional resources and commitments to the county. This will be achieved, i.e. by initiating frequent meetings for existing and potential partnerships, and by involving additional local and international stakeholders.

• South Sudan, as the new country with tremendous potential in the near, mid, and long-term future, is attracting increased worldwide attention, and we are seeing heightened interest in our own networks to invest in South Sudan’s capacity. Thus, streamlined publicity and marketing strategies will be engaged to make the project known to additional circles with investment potential.

**Integration**

• Registration of farmers groups at state level to lobby for support beyond the project period, we anticipate that the local authorities will support the Farmer Field Schools through the County agriculture department.

##

**COORDINATION.**

SIDO has its well internal coordination platform which is adhered to for reporting purpose for this reason, top management is in constant communication with the field management ensuring smooth implementation of the project with clear adherence and observance to “Core Humanitarian Principles” and “Do-no Harm” principle on any of this project stakeholders. Through the locally recruited staff, SIDO will directly engage with the local communities in addition to good working relationship and collaboration with humanitarian actors. Furthermore, SIDO management has direct communication and liaises with the County Commissioner pertaining program implementation challenges and will provide necessary support to the field staff during any unforeseen circumstances.

## PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

SIDO has a strong partnership with government institutions, reaching the most vulnerable members of the community with health, nutrition, vocational training agriculture and education support. In all our projects, SIDOimplementsa community-based approach which consists of the establishment of partners/supporters at the local level: governmental institutions, and community leaders. SIDO will follow the same approach in the implementation of this project in order to reach all project milestones.

## BUDGET

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Item | Unit | Unit price (USD) | Freq | Amount (USD) |
| Direct cost |
| 1 | Conduct inception meeting with county and state departments of agriculture (20 participants). Refreshment, transport refund, facilities)  | Day | 800 | 1 | 800 |
| 2 | Conduct community mobilization and sensitization; (logistical support, transport refund, refreshment (tea and water), presentation materials) | Monthly | 1,000 | 6 | 6,000 |
| 3 | Conduct ToT training; (training materials, logistical support, refreshment tea and water, transport refund including incentives for the 20 Trainers of trainees.) | Days | 1,120 | 5 | 5,600 |
| 4 | Support formation of 10 FFS, establishment of 10 demo plots (Cash for Work). | Groups | 800 | 10 | 8,000 |
| 5 | Support training of 300 FFS members on simple modern farming; training materials, transport return, refreshment, training facilities. | Months | 1,000 | 10 | 10,000 |
| 6 | Conduct support supervision and on job training to farmer groups; | Months | 500 | 6 | 3,000 |
| 7 | Support development of business and sustainability plans; | Month | 4,000 | 1 | 4,000 |
| 8 | Support linking group members with other service providers | Month | 3,000 | 1 | 3,000 |
| 9 | Conduct monthly meetings with the facilitators; training facilities, meeting returns, refreshment,  | Months | 200 | 6 | 1,200 |
| 10 | Conduct FFS group exchange visits | Groups | 500 | 10 | 5,000 |
| Sub Total | **46,600** |
| Personnel cost |
| 10 | Remuneration for Project Manager | Person | 600 | 6 | 3,600 |
| 11 | Remuneration for 2 Project Assistants (USD 300@) | Person | 600 | 6 | 3,600 |
| 12 | Contribution for Finance Manager | Person | 200 | 6 | 1,200 |
| 13 | Contribution for Project Development Coordinator | Person | 200 | 6 | 1,200 |
| 15 | Contribution for Executive Director | Person | 200 | 6 | 1,200 |
| Sub Total | **10,800** |
| Operation cost |
| 17 | Administrative cost 7% |  | 4,018 | 1 | 4,018 |
| Grand Total | 61,418 |

**LOGICAL FRAMEWORK.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Goal:** To reduce poverty and hunger in Obbo and Pajok Payams, Magwi County**Objective:** Increased food security and incomes through improved agricultural productivity and marketing. |
| **Output** | **Indicator** | **Means of verifications** | **Assumptions** |
| 1.Community mobilization and participatory planning | At least 3 staffs from state and county structures are able to plan coordinate and supervise project activities. | Supervision report | Security remains stable |
| At least 300 community members are sensitized on simple modern farming | Monthly activity reports | Security remains stable |
| 2. Capacity building for groups, community and government leaders | 10 FFS formed and trained | Training report | Security remains stable |
| 300 members of FFS trained on simple modern farming | Activity report | Security remains stable |
| 30 new trainers received ToT in FFS | Training report and attendance list | Security remains stable |
| Improved crops and seeds management through trainings. | 300 FFS members trained on Post-Harvest and seeds and crop management  | Training reports and attendance list submitted | Security remains stable and reduced COVID 19 pandemic |
| 10 pilot group granaries constructed  | Activity reports/photos and videos during/after construction | Availability and acceptance by the local authorities to use local materials. |
| 80% FFS members demonstrated skills and knowledge on post-harvest and seeds and crop management | KAP surveys |  |
| 4. Micro projects undertaken by community interest groups increase farm and off farm production and sale | 300 members are applying good agronomical practices/technologies in their groups | Monthly report | Security remains stable |
| 50% of the formed groups expand their groups and increase their production and income by 45% | Monthly report | Security remains stable |
| At least 10 business and sustainability plans developed. | Business plans and monthly reports | Security remains stable |
| At least 50% of groups are working on linking up with other service providers in their locations to enhance their group’s enterprises. | Monthly report | Security is stable |

**RISK AND MITIGATION PLAN**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Risk** | **Potential Risk** | **Risk level** | **Risk Mitigation Measure** |
| Political Environment | Current shaky peace may escalate into conflict. | Medium | Eastern Equatoria has little experience of the conflicts part from Pajok and far southern border with Uganda so the chances of escalating insecurity situation is limited however a Continuous follow-up, and information gathered from all relevant sources including South Sudan NGO Forum whom we are a strong member is paramount. Common do-no-harm approaches will be developed, and the local staff andcommunity trained on them. The approach and all project activities will include elements of flexibility and adaptability to best respond to any evolving situation. |
| Access constraints | Decrease in humanitarian access to the project area delaying project implementation | Medium | Wide-ranging and regular communication will be conducted at all levels to create ownership of the project, and commitment to peace and reconciliation.Participation in preparedness and contingency planning meetings, awareness raising campaigns when security situation fluctuates and implemented when situation requires |
| Prevalence of the COVID 19 Pandemic | Derail activity implementation especially training of the FFS members that required gathering. | High | SIDO will coordinate with the national task force and other partners on COVID 19. SIDO will put in place the COVID 19 preventive measures including handwashing materials, facemasks, and social distancing to combat the spread of the virus.SIDO will also consider conducting trainings on shifts during the implementation phase until the completion of the project on a worst case scenario. |
| Economic factor | The unstable economy might affect our working budget to ensure meeting set objectives | High | SIDO will be flexible in doing its business especially dealing with material suppliers across the country. We will ensure using direct purchases in hard currency than using the country’s inflated currency. |
| Timeframe | Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the expected project implementation period might be affected  | Medium | SIDO will ensure developing strategies to carefully fasten our activities especially the trainings of FFS members. SIDO will regularly update Australian embassy of any issues that might cause delay in achieving ourtargets in time. |
| Target beneficiaries are motivated and interested in gaining skills and cooperating in FFS activities  | Inability to regularly attend trainings | Low | The approach of bottom-to-top approach will not register non-acceptance as we already have presence with the community before and also by involving the community and stakeholders right from the inception of the project will avoid any risk of unwillingness by the target beneficiaries. |

***END***