

Reporting and Evaluation Form

Dear grantee,

We are happy to partner with you in the meaningful work you are doing! As we strive to get to know you better and to evaluate our grant making, your input is valuable to us.

- Use the questions that are relevant to your organization and to the project that was funded.
- If any of the information is already available in your own reporting format there is no need to duplicate.
- Let us know if there is any area that you would like to discuss.

Name of Organization: Solidarity with South Sudan

Date/period : 1 May 2024 – 30 September 2024

Project: Sustainable Agricultural Project (SAP) Riimenze – Yambio - South Sudan. New Solar System for the project. Betterment of the living and working conditions of the SAP community and team that works for improving the livelihood conditions of rural communities in Western Equatorial State affected by the post war situation in South Sudan

1. Was the grant for general operations, a specific project, or expansion of an existing project?

Thanks to this grant, we were able to purchase and install a **new solar power system** at the SAP project site in Riimenze. This installation has ensured that the Solidarity with South Sudan Riimenze community has access to reliable solar energy, supporting the consistent implementation of all project activities day and night.

The SAP project, launched by Solidarity with South Sudan in 2009, is based in the Western Equatoria State (WES) of South Sudan. It aims to improve the livelihood of rural communities impacted by post-war challenges by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and contributing to environmental protection. Since its beginning the project has given support to more than 2.700 rural families. In 2024, SAP entered a new three-year phase, supporting 810 households with 1,170 direct beneficiaries and 4,050 direct and indirect beneficiaries. A dedicated nutrition component also supports 360 malnourished children.

The new solar system is an essential **improvement for project sustainability** and uninterrupted operations, ensuring electricity access for both day and night needs.

Impact of the Project:

South Sudan is the youngest state in the world born following the independence from Sudan obtained in 2011 and, after decades of civil war, it is ranked last of the countries on the UNDP (HDI). Over 80% of the population in Western Equatoria State (WES), where the present project is located, depend on agriculture and livestock, but lack proper techniques and resources. Increased poaching has reduced access to protein sources leading to malnutrition in children

aged 3 to 10, particularly lacking vitamins and protein. Despite abundant natural resources, years of conflict have hampered sustainable development.

The SAP project enhances livelihood opportunities for the target smallholder households of Bazungua, Bangasu, Riimenze and, the neighbouring payams in Yambio County, Western Equatoria State – South Sudan, who were affected by the post war situations and internal conflicts in South Sudan ensuring environmentally friendly approaches and contributing to environmental protection.

Outcomes:

- 1: To enhance the nutrition status of 810 rural households with a focus on 360 vulnerable undernourished children.
- 2: To improve the income and asset security of 60 farmer households (included in the group of 810) via integrated livestock keeping.
- 3: To improve the livelihood conditions of 150 women (also included in 810) by small scale irrigation for horticulture production.
4. To enhance productive model farm and the farm productivity of target small holder farmers, for enhanced household security in a sustainable manner in a balanced agro-ecological system in Yambio County on a long-term basis.

Outputs:

- 1.1. 810 participants (representatives of households) get training on nutrition (270 HH per year) and at least 80% of them has successfully completed the training and have a complete knowledge about better nutrition practices and the balanced diets.
- 1.2. 70% of households (total 810 HH with 3,240 children for a total of 4,050 direct and indirect beneficiaries) are practising balanced diet during their daily meals at home.
- 1.3. 100% of the targeted vulnerable children under 5 years (total target: 360 children) have adequate access to local made additives.
- 2.1 70% of the targeted livestock keepers (total: 42 livestock keepers) have better access to income and asset security through sales of livestock and livestock products.
- 2.2 100% of the target HH (= 60) are trained.
- 2.3 100% of the trained households (= 60 households) are qualified and received livestock (30 HH for pigs / 30 HH for goats)
- 2.4 70% of the targeted household for livestock are practicing indoor management system and better management practices.
- 3.1 6 women groups (total: 150 women) participating in horticultural production have improved their household income and asset security through the sales of horticultural products.
- 3.2 80% of them (total: 120 women) are practicing better and sustainable horticultural practices such as mulching, crop rotation, recommended spacing, organic manure application, integrated pest management, proper irrigation and marketing.
- 4.1 A learning model site of 1.0 Feddan (0.42Ha) is demonstrating sustainable agriculture practices, skills and technologies for crop, livestock production and soil fertility management strategies.
- 4.2 A 54.0 feddan (22.68Ha) commercially viable income generating model farm is demonstrating sustainable agriculture practices, skills and technologies in key crop and, livestock enterprises and in soil fertility management strategies.

2. Were the funds utilized as described in your proposal? If not, what are the changes and why?

Yes

3. Briefly describe the implementation, what worked well, any unexpected outcomes, challenges, modifications.

The purchase and installation of the solar power system proceeded as planned. The system was successfully installed (photos attached to this report as Annex A), providing stable energy supply both day and night to support project activities. The new system includes an advanced hybrid inverter for efficient daytime power management and lithium batteries, chosen for their longer life and higher cycle capacity, ensuring energy availability during nighttime as well. The installation company, located in Juba, has committed to periodic maintenance checks every 12 months (We have chosen a reliable engineer to install the system, and while he is based in Juba, he will be available to go to Riimenze), and they are also training selected community members on routine maintenance and system monitoring to reduce reliance on external support for regular operations.

4. What are the learnings from this project? Will it be repeated, is it ongoing, does it need to be modified?

This project has demonstrated the significant value of renewable energy in improving sustainability and independence within the SAP project. The community's ability to handle routine maintenance increases project resilience. Given these positive outcomes, we anticipate maintaining and potentially expanding this approach for energy needs in future project phases.

5. How is the community where the work is done involved in the ideation, implementation, and evaluation of the work?

Community members have been actively involved throughout the project cycle. They provided input during the ideation stage, assisted in the installation process, and selected members are being trained in basic maintenance and monitoring of the system. This participatory approach fosters community ownership and ensures sustainability.

6. What evaluation method are you using to measure outcome and impact?

We utilize a combination of household surveys, health and nutrition assessments, and results tracking to evaluate the project's impact. Additionally, routine energy use monitoring helps assess the solar system's performance and its contribution to ongoing project needs.

This project will be evaluated internally by the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in collaboration with Project Manager and the report will be submitted to the Project Director who will send it to Solidarity Executive Director for consideration. Assessment will look at the relevance of the project, the effective delivery of the project activities on time / budget and against objectives and the contribution to community better livelihoods and household economy, based on how effectively the objectives of the project have been achieved as well as how effectively the capacity building / training provided to the target groups has contributed to the overall household wellbeing. The internal Evaluation will look at acreage under cultivation, effective production, control of time, materials cost in addition to assessment of supply and demand, and the number of families directly assisted. It will also look at the post-harvest results due to adoption of best agricultural practices and nutritional status of children.

7. Have you noticed any change over time in the communities or regions you are working in?

Yes, the reliable power source has facilitated a smoother implementation of daily activities, reducing project delays and improving productivity. Community members have expressed appreciation for the stability and efficiency introduced

by the solar power system. On a general level, the SAP project is also bringing impactful change to the community through advocacy in several key areas:

Environmental Protection: This project promotes environmentally friendly approaches by implementing climate-resilient farming methods and controlled, integrated livestock systems. Thanks to the good agricultural practices established in previous phases, project areas now feature agro-ecological green forests and fertile soil, which enhances crop yields. Additionally, the promotion and use of improved cooking stoves, initiated in earlier project phases, significantly contributes to environmental conservation in these areas.

Gender Equality: The SAP-R project prioritizes gender equality among all targeted groups, with a gender distribution between beneficiaries of 62.5% female and 37.5% male. Women are empowered to participate actively, receiving training on nutrition, horticultural production, improved cooking stove usage, and savings schemes, which continues to strengthen their involvement in community activities.

People with Disabilities: Following the principles of respect, dignity, and humanity outlined in our project, SAP has developed a program dedicated to supporting people with disabilities. SAP remains committed to promoting diversity and inclusion, upholding high standards of trustworthiness, and acting as a role model for inclusivity within the community.

8. Going forward how can we best support your work?

It would be invaluable for us to **receive your support throughout this three-year implementation phase, specifically for Objective 4 of the project**: to enhance the productive model farm and improve farm productivity among targeted smallholder farmers, thereby strengthening household security in a sustainable and balanced agro-ecological system in Yambio County over the long term. This objective is critical for establishing a resilient agricultural model that will benefit the community far beyond the project's duration, and your partnership would be instrumental in achieving this lasting impact.

9. Please let us know of any major change in your organization, your philosophy, your strategy that might impact how grants are used.

Our organization remains dedicated to community-centered, sustainable development, with no structural changes to report. We continue to focus on resilience-building and skills transfer to empower community members, thereby reducing reliance on external support. This approach aligns seamlessly with our vision of fostering self-sustaining communities in South Sudan and ensures that project activities and resource allocation remain optimized for lasting impact.

Registered office:

2nd Floor, Humboldt Tower, East 53rd Street, Marbella, Panama, Republic of Panama

European mailing address:

c/o Fidinam MFO S.A.M.

L'Union - 27, Boulevard des Moulins, MC 98000 Monaco

Tel: +377 9310 6140