

Working to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals Through Enhancing Women's Access to Land in Post Conflict Context: the Case of Wau State in South Sudan

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SUMMARY

Land governance in South Sudan is not only central to nation building, but also a major contributor to conflicts, poverty and underdevelopment in the post conflict context. To reinforce the crucial role of land rights and the importance of gender equality in access of the rights, the Sustainable Development Goals indicators 1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.a.2 monitors the progress of security of land and property rights for both men and women and countries' legal framework ability to guarantee women's equal rights to land. The crisis in South Sudan has led to an increase in land-related disputes. Women's housing, land and property rights are the most affected which significantly increases their vulnerability. Supporting displaced women to change their lives through land governance is significant in securing economic independence toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The paper highlights efforts undertaken to enhance women's access to land to consolidate peace in South Sudan through improving awareness on women's rights to land, enhancing institutional capacities from the local to national levels and supporting the land policy formulation process with focus on strengthening the gender perspectives. The paper explores implementation of innovative approaches in fit-for-purpose land administration to enhance women's access to land and entrenching of gender equality in the development of land policy and land administration practices. With the implementation of the peace agreement, it is recognized that upholding and securing women's rights to land is crucial in facilitating resettlement, reducing recurrence of conflict and contributing to sustainable peace and stability for better livelihoods envisioned in the Sustainable Development Goals.

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The research findings point towards interventions that can address capacity needs of institutions on gender responsive land dispute resolution and land management to facilitate and enhance efficiency in service delivery. The use of innovative fit-for-purpose geo-spatial solutions in land administration that are gender sensitive and affordable is also recommended. There is need to re-structure mandates of various institutions that deal with land to eliminate overlaps and enhance coordination and integrated service delivery. The findings recommend integrated approaches to finding solutions due to the varied needs of internally displaced persons for a wholistic existence. South Sudan National Development Strategy focuses on creating enabling conditions for voluntary return, integration of displaced persons and development of appropriate laws. The paper contributes to the above strategies through engaging institutional stakeholders in approaches to improve land dispute resolution and management, assessment of institutional capacities and mapping and review of existing systems on their gender responsiveness to provide evidence-based reforms and give policy recommendations that entrench gender responsiveness. The paper also demonstrates the use of gender responsive fit-for-purpose geo-spatial approaches that are affordable to enhance gender sensitive land management in a post conflict context that can be upscaled to other States in South Sudan and countries experiencing similar challenges and sustainably improve livelihoods.

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1. BACKGROUND

Land is and will continue to be important for livelihoods in South Sudan. The majority of South Sudanese depend on agriculture and livestock for a significant proportion of their livelihoods, therefore secure rights to acquire, access, use and transfer land and associated productive resources are essential for the well-being of families and communities and national economic development (Republic of South Sudan, 2014).

The crisis in South Sudan has led to an increase in land-related disputes, extensive secondary occupation and land grabbing. Where customary authority over rural land changes, members of the displaced tribes are unable to return or access their land, despite having legitimate and overlapping rights to the land. These issues not only present obstacles to the voluntary and safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), people in protection of civilians' camps (PoCC), and returnees but also result in disputes and clashes between returnees and communities currently occupying the land and host communities. Further conflict in 2016 also resulted in displacements and many women headed IDPs residing inside collective sites and places in and around Wau town in open spaces owned by government institutions or others. Competing claims to ownership or use of the same piece of land from communities or ethnic groups, as opposed to individuals, have also significantly intensified the risk of larger-scale violent conflict.

According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview, South Sudan (2020), the number of people uprooted since the start of the conflict in 2013 has reached more than 4 Million, including 1.5 million internally displaced people, with majority being women and children. More than 2 million people have departed to neighboring countries—up 1.3 million since the renewed violence in July 2016. There has been an increase in the population facing severe food insecurity in the post-harvest season. Despite the government's efforts to encourage return and resettlement of internally displaced persons, they are faced with challenges to reclaim their land, which in turn leads to conflicts. The glaring gender inequalities reflect a bigger problem of gender discrimination as shown in the illustration below by Beula (not her real name).

In most areas in South Sudan rules for access to land are still established by customary law and administered, interpreted and enforced by male traditional leaders. Widowed and single women

returnees and internally displaced persons living in PoCC sites have to negotiate, with traditional leaders for access to land either in their areas of displacement or late/former husband's origin. Likewise, women returning to the urban or peri-urban areas face the different challenge of urban land being demarcated, registered and held mainly under private tenure or as public land used for government purposes.

Rapid urbanization and commercialization of land around Wau coupled with displacement has resulted in women who are unable to secure their tenure. Women, specifically widows, divorcees, separated women, older women and women with disabilities are at high risk of being displaced or even losing their land due to the lengthy and bureaucratic process involved in securing tenure along with required legal fees. Field evidence demonstrates that most women are expected to go with a male companion to the State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure or local chiefs while trying to acquire legal documentation for their land.

Loss of legal documentation during the conflict and displacement has affected women who are trying to secure their tenure specifically displaced women trying to return to their villages of origin. Furthermore, the process of replacing lost documentation is lengthy and bureaucratic and often requires resources and the presence of a male relative as expected by traditional leaders, local council courts or ministry of physical infrastructure.

Furthermore, South Sudan has one of the lowest female literacy rates in the world as only 15% of women in South Sudan can read and write. The high level of illiteracy in South Sudan limits women's ability to take up leadership positions as basic literacy skills is often required for leadership positions within local council courts, and then diploma or degree for the formal court systems. A strategy for resettlement and allocation of land to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of displaced persons, and the implementation of a transparent and accountable land administration system is therefore required for peaceful co-existence.

***Beula is a 45-year-old mother of 7 children staying in Nazereth in Wau town. She says that she is married, but she has not seen or heard from her husband since 2011 and her younger children are not the children of her husband. She currently stays at a collective center for displaced people but has a house and land. She grows ground nuts and okra and also keeps chickens. She currently decides what to do on the land and believes she can decide to sell it or bequeath it if she wishes to. She doesn't think she can lose the land "unless my husband comes and causes conflict and takes the land document, maybe, but I don't think so". If someone else tries to take the land she will go to court and thinks she can succeed. But if her husband returns, she is not sure what will happen.*

2. LAND AND GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Gender inequality persists in all regions of the globe but is more pronounced in developing countries. The World Bank International Poverty Line (LPI) projects that approximately 700 million people live on less than \$ 1.90 a day, making extreme poverty to remain unacceptably high. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for half of the global poor and 6 out of 10 of the world's poorest people are women. Throughout the world when it comes to land and other productive resources gender inequality persist and is intimately related to women's poverty and exclusion. Gender based inequalities increases the overall level of poverty while eradicating gender inequalities can help reduce poverty, with empowerment of (poor) women and men through access to productive assets and decision-making being among action areas for poverty elimination. According to USAID Gender and Extreme Poverty report (2015), women's land ownership is low in developing countries particularly across sub-Saharan Africa. In Malawi it is estimated that 17 percent of the documented land is owned by women, 11 percent in Tanzania while in Niger it goes as low as 5 percent. A McKinsey Global Institute report (2019) stipulates that USD 316 billion could be added to Africa's GDP by 2025 through matching progress gender towards equality of their best performing neighbor.

2.1 SDG AND GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

The 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development goals reflects the paramount importance of land rights in the eradication of poverty. They deal with land from several angles: Goal 1 on poverty, Target 1.4 refers to the need for ownership and control over land and natural resources. Goal 2 on food security, Target 2.3 refers to the need for secure tenure and access to land. Goal 5 on gender, Target 5a refers to the need for ownership and control over land. Goal 10 focuses on the reduction on inequalities. Goal 11 on urban, Target 11.1 refers to the need for adequate housing and the upgrading of slums. Goal 15, Target 15.3 refers to the need to restore degraded land. Goal 16 on peaceful societies, Target 16.3 refers to the need for rule of law (UN Habitat/GLTN, 2017). The UN system has developed indicator 1.4.2 to monitor the progress of security of land and property rights whether documented or perceived with legally recognized documentation by sex and by type of tenure, indicator 5.a.1 on proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land by sex and share of women among owners of agricultural land by type of tenure and indicator 5.a.2 on proportion of countries where the legal framework including customary law guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) recommends redressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed. It reaffirms the global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step in realizing sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at the global, regional, national, subnational and local levels with the participation of all relevant actors. The implementation of NUA

contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the achievement of the SDGs.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) promote responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with respect to all forms of tenure: public, private, communal, indigenous, customary and informal with emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized people. It promotes gender equality regarding tenure rights and access to land referring to human rights, using the equality argument, addressing women's practical and strategic needs in regard to tenure rights and promoting empowerment.

The United Nations Land and Human rights standards and applications reiterate the fact that land is not a mere commodity but an essential element for the realization of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women affirm gender equality. For numerous women worldwide discrimination in marriage, inheritance, legal capacity and access to financial and other resources is an obstacle to access, use and control of land. Land Use, control and management affect food security, climate change, urbanization and sustainable use of natural resources.

2.2 REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The Land Policy Initiative's purpose is to enable the use of land to lend impetus to the process of African development. It assists African Union Members States to develop or review their land policies as well as address gender inequality and women's empowerment through developing of tools and providing evidence for policy formulation and effective implementation. Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (2010) which are a joint product of African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank provide guidance to development and implementation of land policy as well as monitoring its implementation. It also engages development partners in resource mobilization and capacity building in support of land policy development and implementation in Africa.

2.3 NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

The 2011 Transitional Constitution, the Land Act and the Local Government Act and the draft National Land policy all explicitly recognize women's rights to own and inherit land and property. The Constitution calls on all levels of government to enact laws to combat harmful customs and traditions, which undermine the dignity and status of women. Women's housing, land and property (HLP) rights have in the past been linked to a husband or male family member; to date, the 2011 Transitional Constitution still only recognizes the right of widows to claim the estates of their husbands in conjunction with the legal (male) heir. The South Sudan 2009 Land Act and the draft Land Policy provides men and women with equal access to land holdings. The Policy requires that

men and women are treated fairly and equally when they seek access to administrative and legal services related to exercise of their land rights. On mediation of land rights conflicts the policy recognizes the role of traditional authorities in effectively mediating conflict which however is affected by the complexity of land disputes and recommends capacity building in new conflict mediation skills through training and technical assistance to enhance alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

South Sudan National Development Strategy (NDS) outlines six strategic deliverables: 1) create enabling conditions for and facilitate the voluntary return and integration of displaced South Sudanese; 2) develop appropriate laws and enforce the rule of law; 3) ensure secure access to adequate and nutritious food; 4) silence the guns by facilitating a permanent cessation of hostilities; 5) restore and expand the provision of basic services at all levels of government; and 6) restore and maintain basic transport infrastructure such as roads and bridges.

The project on ‘Enhancing Women’s Access to Land to Consolidate Peace in South Sudan’ focuses on promoting equal opportunities and reducing disparities and divisions within communities. This also includes aspects of social exclusion and strengthening social relations, community interactions and ties and embracing all aspects which are generally considered as the social capital of a society. Addressing land conflicts through peaceful means remains high on the priority list. Land conflicts are addressed mainly through traditional dispute resolution mechanisms.

3. ENHANCING WOMEN’S ACCESS TO LAND TO CONSOLIDATE PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN PROJECT

The Government of South Sudan through the national Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development with support from UN-Habitat and FAO is implementing a project titled ‘*Enhancing Women’s Access to Land to Consolidate Peace*’ in Wau State. The project aims to enhance women’s access and rights to land to consolidate peace in South Sudan through capacity building of traditional authorities’, leaders and communities to feel more confident and committed to gender responsive land and conflict/dispute resolution. It also aims at improving land management and administrative systems at state and county levels to enhance access and secure land tenure rights for the most vulnerable women, mainly IDPs and Returnees. In addition, policy makers at national level will be more committed to implementing gender responsive land policies. Upholding and securing women’s land right during the implementation of the peace agreement is crucial to facilitating resettlement, reducing recurrence of conflict, and contributing to sustainable peace and stability.

3.1 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Awareness campaigns can be an effective component of a comprehensive strategy to promote change at the level of the individual, organization, community or society. Campaigns vary in their

messaging approaches and theoretical background. They also differ in their target audience, approaches to planning, network development, complementary materials and evaluation methods.

3.1.1 AWARENESS BUILDING ON LAND RIGHTS

In the project, awareness building is aimed at ensuring women’s groups have enhanced capacity to demand and secure accountability from government and traditional authorities for women’s land rights. It involves conducting awareness, information, sensitization and dialogue sessions in different areas of Wau State targeting beneficiaries that are pre-selected for the project.

The awareness campaign sessions are conducted jointly with women groups and with civil society organizations. They use information/sensitization sessions; drama, theater, poems and songs; radio talk shows/programmes; information, education and communication materials (IECs); community outreach and dialogues among women and among leaders. The messages in the campaigns are delivered in the language of the target audience to be effective. The sessions focus on women’s housing, land and property rights (HLP) with emphasis on access to land. General information /awareness campaigns take approximately 4 hours with averages of 80 to 250 persons in attendance. Radio talk shows are projected to last around one to two hours. Local dialogue sessions and community dialogue sessions are usually in depth with exercises conducted for one full day.

The campaigns target government officials from relevant Ministries i.e. of Physical Infrastructure, Ministry of Child, Gender and Social Welfare, Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports and Ministry of Local Government. Others include Sheikhs, elders, women, civil society organizations and youth. Areas targeted for the sessions include Lokoloko, Nazareth, Jebel Kheir, Eastern Bank Centre and Khormalong/Bar-yar. In the awareness campaigns, 467 persons (291 women) have been reached so far to potentially claim their land rights.



Awareness campaign session



A poster as an example of IEC materials used in the campaigns

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3.1.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION CENTRES

Increasing awareness among communities and traditional leaders on women's land rights and gender responsive land dispute resolution and land management also entails creation of information centers. The centres help IDPs and returnees as well as host communities to access relevant land information on women's land rights. Five (5) information centres have been created in Wau State at the Ministry of Gender, Women's Association, Cathedral collective Centre, Jebel Kher collective Centre and Protection of Civilians Adjacent Area (POCAA)

3.2 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The concept of capacity development has evolved over the past decades from one that focuses on human resource development and individuals to a concept that encapsulates individuals, organizations and the wider society in which they function (United Nations, 2015). For capacity development to be effective, experience within the United Nations development system and elsewhere indicates that it should be addressed at the three levels of individual, organizational and an enabling environment, a strategy that is the focus of the project in South Sudan.

3.2.1 CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The project activities entailed carrying out surveys to establish a baseline on women's land rights as the environment in which women access their rights, reviewing the capacities as well as the existing systems of organizations that deal with land dispute resolution and land management and administration and enhancing the capacity of stakeholders on gender sensitive land management. In September 2019, surveys were carried out on a baseline study, capacity needs assessments and mapping of systems in Juba and Wau and in other areas beyond Wau for a comprehensive analysis. The methodology used included literature review, focused group discussions and interviewing key informants. A team of land experts from UN Habitat, Norwegian Refugee Council and staff from the Ministry of Land, Housing and urban development conducted the assessments.

Stakeholders interviewed were drawn from nation organizations including the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, the Parliamentary Land Committee and South Sudan Land Commission. At the Wau State level, interviews were carried out with the Deputy Governor of Wau, State Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Development officers, Wau Municipality, Land commission and Women's Association in Wau. Others included the State Ministry of Gender, Child and Social welfare, leaders of Protection of Civilian (POC) center, State Ministry of Justice, County commissioners, and members of Abunybuny IDP and host community.

3.2.1.1 BASELINE STUDY

The baseline study was designed to establish the level at which women enjoy secure tenure rights, the link between land and conflict and existing levels and platforms for conflict resolution among others. The study recommends new gender relations that are rooted in stronger rights to land and property for women, a policy that is explicit on the analysis of constraints affecting women and the need for legislation and programs to advance women's land rights, subsidizing/waiving fees for those who lost documents during displacements and legal recognition of more women's land rights.



A woman being interviewed in Wau State

3.2.1.2 LAND MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The survey reviewed and assessed capacity needs on gender sensitive land administration and management and dispute resolution and reviewed the existing land administration system with the aim of identifying areas to enhance the land management system including the community system. Under capacity assessment, office equipment was found to be inadequate and there is need for capacity building and training on various land management processes. Mapping of land management systems revealed overlapping of responsibilities. Practical and immediate opportunities to support the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Urban Planning were identified and included support to government to have one national lease form, support to document gender disaggregated data and campaigns on women land rights, land registration procedures, and dispute resolution practice designed for everyone involved in land administration and management



Drawing equipment and filing system in the draftsman's office, Ministry of Physical infrastructure & urban planning, Wau

3.2.1.3 LAND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The assessment was designed to help identify gaps in structures for resolving land conflicts and how they respond to both women and men. This information was critical in designing, and planning interventions. The findings recommend, improvement of the registry to ensure collection and documentation of sex disaggregated data on land ownership to support monitoring of women's access



Focused group discussions with members of the Abunybuny IDP and host community

to land, improved storage of data using information technology systems for ease of retrieval and ensuring authenticity for fair dispute resolution. It further recommends legal reform through the ongoing national land policy formulation to ensure customary structures, local government and judiciary are feasible and eliminate discrimination against women and duplication of functions.

3.2.2 SCOPING STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL TENURE DOMAIN MODEL (STDM)

The project requires government offices dealing with land at state level to be more gender responsive to allocate land for landless women (IDPs and returnees). This will require State government and local authorities to test the implementation of community-based mapping and documentation of tenure rights, including disputes, natural resources and livelihoods. Consequently, a technical Scoping mission on the possible application of the STDM in Wau State was undertaken. The study revealed the existence of strong opportunities for implementing STDM due to the fact that local technical capacity among the ministry staff requires simple technology that can be dealt with within the timeframe of the project and possibility of building the capacity of the staff to improve governance and service delivery. The flexibility of STDM to work both at the county, state and national level would improve participation of various stakeholders and most importantly in addressing the dominant conflict cases through local validation mechanism. Likewise, data can be managed and updated easily at any level. The fact that most of the documentation is being generated manually presents a gap that can be improved by STDM to support electronic document generation. A strong entry point to work with the Ministry to use STDM to digitize and roll out STDM based processes in line with the ongoing land reform is also presented since all land administration services are done by the State

3.2.3 REVIEW WORKSHOP

The purpose of the review workshop was to introduce the survey studies carried out on the baseline on women's land rights, gender sensitive land dispute resolution and land management and administration and to discuss the preliminary findings with participants who were directly involved in the study as well as other stakeholders on land and gender issues. It also provided an opportunity to showcase the project progress and solicit comments/ inputs and support from all stakeholders on the next steps including the trainings on gender sensitive land dispute resolution and management. The workshop was held over a two-day period with a total of 46 participants. It involved presentation of key messages from major stakeholders, discussions on project activities and preliminary findings from the studies.

3.2.4 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The findings from the surveys on the baseline on women's land rights, gender sensitive land dispute resolution and land management and administration revealed existing gaps in the land management systems, land dispute resolution mechanisms and gave an insight into the status of women's land rights including on barriers to access land and level of awareness on land rights. This was used to guide formulation of training curriculum. The curriculum formulated for land dispute resolution covers training on introducing participants to gender responsive land dispute resolution; understanding land disputes and securing women's land rights for peace and stability; structures, roles and responsibilities of existing land dispute resolution mechanism, resolving land disputes in a gender sensitive manner and gender responsive documentation, reporting, communication and monitoring land dispute resolution. The land management and administration curriculum cover gender sensitive land governance, transparency in land administration, gender evaluation criteria in land projects, land mediation and monitoring land indicators with focus on gender and land access.

3.3 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The post conflict period currently experienced in South Sudan presents opportunity as laws and policies are being revised. The revisions to policy and the way people resettle after displacement can be used to challenge problematic beliefs and practices and set new foundations for more equitable policies and practices on gender relations. The project has made strides towards providing effective and strategic support on gender land responsive policies.

3.3.1 WORKSHOPS ON LAND POLICY

The Women's Land Rights Workshop held in May 2019 provided the women of South Sudan with a forum to: discuss the challenges women in rural and urban areas face to access, own, and inherit land; identify concrete ways to address these challenges and operationalize the protections afforded in law; participate in an open dialogue with key members of Government and the Council of Traditional Authority Leaders to share concerns about women's land rights and identify practical ways to uphold these rights; and provide recommendations on how the national Land Policy can give practical effect to the protections afforded to women under law. Resolutions from the workshop were shared at the Land Policy workshop held in June 2019 in Juba to strengthen gender aspects in the draft policy.

The Land Policy Workshop held in June 2019 was held to revitalize the process necessary for the land policy's review and adoption, raise awareness of its important reforms and assist the Government to meet its obligations. It recognized that adopting the land policy would present an opportunity to put land rights above land politics and will be a pathway for durable peace in South Sudan. It provided an opportunity to present and discuss recommendations from the Women's Land rights Workshop.



Presentation of findings of the Women's land rights workshop at the land policy workshop



Parliamentarians at the Land Policy Workshop

In October, FAO facilitated a workshop on land governance and administration in Wau. The workshop was attended by State-level land authorities and county commissioners and Director Generals from all of Wau's 11 counties. Discussions were held on institutional legal mandates in land governance, the process of establishing equitable, transparent, and gender-sensitive land allocation procedures. A report setting out key recommendations for guidelines and procedures for land allocation in Wau was finalized and will be shared with the Wau Land Commission and the Ministry and a technical committee which includes members of all relevant institutions to draft the procedures will be established.

3.3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DRAFT LAND POLICY

There are many recommendations from the surveys that the draft National Land Policy (DLP) could take up. The findings have been shared with key government officials and stakeholders for their review and incorporation into the policy document where relevant.

Policy recommendations from the survey findings include strengthening the DLP for it to be more explicit on the analysis of the constraints affecting women and the need for legislation and programs to advance women's land rights especially through, among other things, providing for equal inheritance separated from care for children, ensuring legal representation, and by entrenching free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for communities and explicitly for rural women. The idea of subsidizing - or waiving completely especially for those who lost documents or were displaced during conflict - the land registration costs when women's rights are registered in their names, can encourage and facilitate the legal recognition of more women's land rights.

Likewise, technical support has been extended to the Specialized Parliamentary Committee on Land and Physical infrastructure which is overseeing the land policy development process in South

Sudan. The support included sharing global provisions on various thematic areas in land policy like land rights of women and children from the Ugandan policy, gender and equity principles from Kenya, land and gender relations from the Frameworks and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa and allocation of land to women from Myanmar among other provisions from all over the world

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Secure tenure has strong relationships with social-economic and environmental development and hence important for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (1,2,5,11,15,16). The project as demonstrated is working towards improving tenure security with focus on both women and men through (i) enhancing women's land rights among South Sudanese people and enabling women to be able to claim their rights; (ii) equipping women leaders and their counterparts in traditional authorities with appropriate skills and understanding on gender responsive land conflict/dispute resolution, so as to become more confident and committed; (iii) supporting in putting in place gender responsive land management and dispute resolution system with appropriate technical capacities within selected institutions at all levels; (iv) improving women's tenure security through participatory mapping and documentation of rights; and (v) enhancing capacity of policy makers at national level to be committed to implementing gender sensitive land policy.

The above measures being implemented will enhance women's access to land and contribute to conflict prevention and peace building in South Sudan. This is because discrimination against women to own, control and use of land for livelihoods and other activities will be mitigated, and land-related grievances of women would be addressed. This will facilitate returning to their place of origin and living and working peacefully with host communities to improve their livelihoods. Likewise, relevant land institutions dealing with land dispute resolution mechanism and land management and administration are reviewing their systems to be gender responsive and with capacity of the staff enhanced will sustainably and entrench gender responsive land management for improved service and land governance.

Efforts to engage other States outside Wau revealed similarity in challenges in land dispute resolution, land management and women's land rights. The project has received requests to upscale to other States and is reviewing the engagement in Wau State so as to operationalize support while considering the similarities in contexts as well as inherent differences to ensure effective engagement outside Wau. On that note, reviewing and compiling of the instruments used in the surveys on land dispute resolution mechanisms, land management and baseline, fit-for-purpose gender responsive and pro-poor solutions in land administrations as well as awareness campaigns with the objective of designing a tool that can be replicated and contextualized in other States in South Sudan with similar challenges as Wau State is currently being explored.

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