



SECURE ECONOMIES AND DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN SOUTH DARFUR AND SOUTH KORDOFAN (SEED)

Final Evaluation
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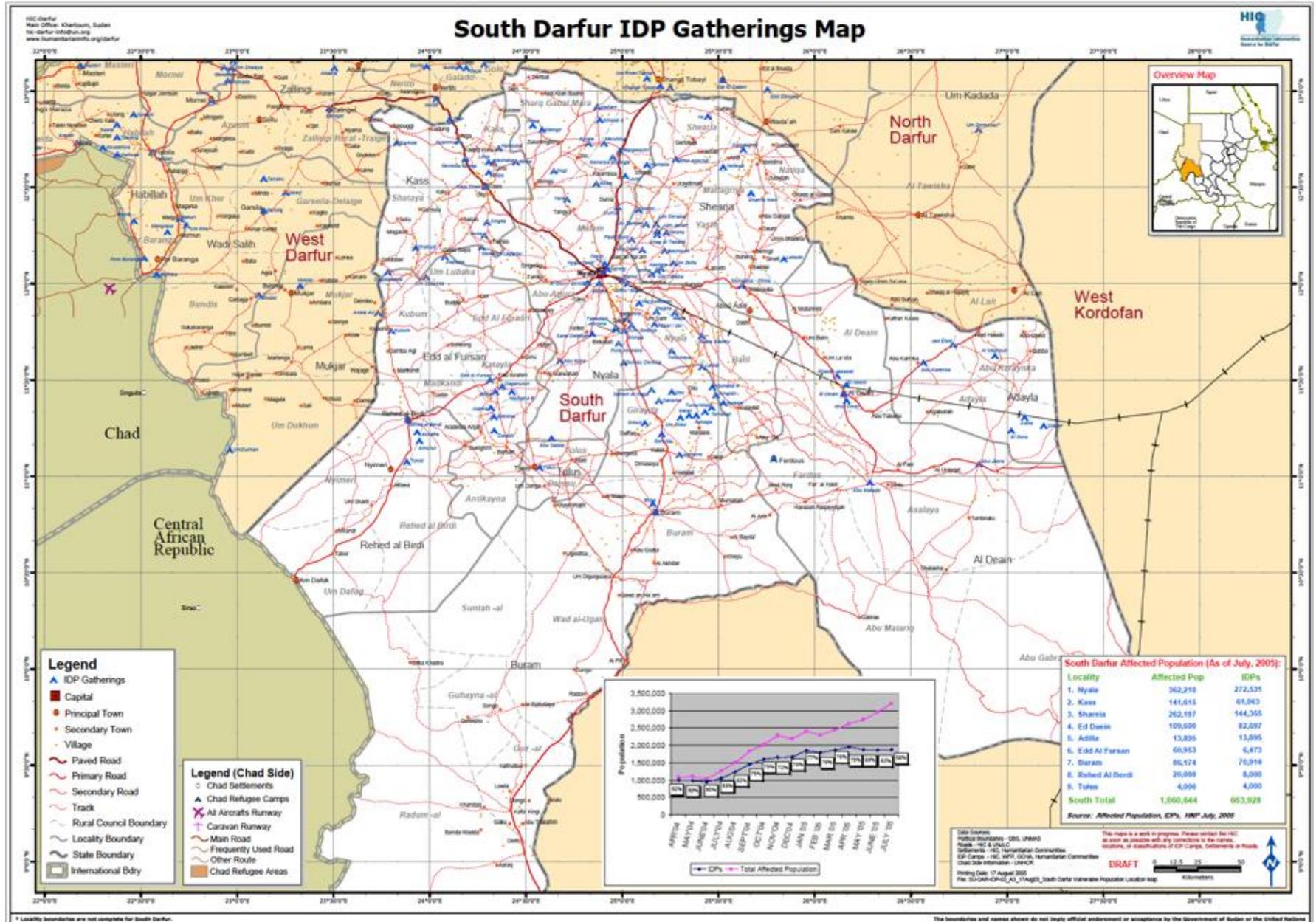
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Acronyms

BDS	Business Development Services
CAHW	Community Animal Health Worker
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CIS	Care International Switzerland
EU	European Union
GoS	Government of Sudan
HH	Household Survey
IcSP	Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
SEED	Secure Economies and Diversified Livelihoods
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSLA	Village- and Loan Savings Association

Map



Executive Summary

Care International Switzerland in Sudan (CIS) implemented the Secure Economies and Diversified Livelihoods for Peaceful Coexistence in South Darfur and South Kordofan (SEED) project in Sudan. The project aimed to improve household food security and income and contribute to building peaceful coexistence. SEED was implemented in two localities of South Darfur (Kass and Gereida) and in three localities of South Kordofan (Abu Jebeiha, Rashad and Alabassiya). In total, 8,525 households were targeted, including women, youth, traders and traditional leaders in pastoralist and farming communities. The project had four specific objectives, with the overarching goal of contributing to peacebuilding between pastoralist and sedentary communities:

- Result 1:** Mutual economic interest kept between the conflicting groups, especially pastoralists & farmers.
- Result 2:** Pressure on natural resources and competition over resources alleviated through community managed approaches and intermediate technologies.
- Result 3:** The potential economic opportunities in the target areas are explored, diversified and strengthened.
- Result 4:** Youths from both sexes have increased skills and access to economic opportunities that meet demand in local and regional markets.

Forcier Consulting was contracted by CIS to conduct a final evaluation of the SEED project to assess project outcomes and impacts, and produce actionable recommendations for future programming. The fieldwork for the evaluation was implemented in March of 2017 and included 397 household surveys with beneficiaries in the project areas, as well as six focus group discussions with different types of beneficiaries, seven in depth interviews with key stakeholders, as well as eight case stories. Analysis and report-writing were conducted from the end of March to late April. This report presents the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the evaluation.

The evaluation team finds that CIS has designed activities that were highly **relevant and appropriate** to the needs in the targeted communities. Land rights, market dynamics and (youth) unemployment were identified as key issues to address in South Darfur and South Kordofan while conflict dynamics between farmers and pastoralists were at the centre of programming efforts. A theory of change (ToC) was designed to guide activities and monitoring, which stated that by building economic relationships between conflicting groups, alleviating pressure on natural resources, diversifying income sources and creating employment opportunities, stability and peace would be achieved. The ToC was found to be both sound and useful for designing the priority activities as well as monitoring and evaluating their outcomes.

In particular, as competition over natural resources was found to be a key driver of conflict, the goals and objectives formulated for the intervention were found to be highly relevant to the issues central to conflict. In addition, the youth survey conducted provided a clear understanding of the challenges perceived as most urgent in the community, and activities were clearly tailored to their needs. Finally, issues addressed in the farming activities, such as the approach of terracing, were found to be appropriate and relevant, especially in order to reduce tension on natural resources. Overall, CIS

employed a strategically diverse set of highly relevant activities to address the aforementioned issues at the grassroots level, cumulating in a holistic approach involving the majority of stakeholders.

Efficiency was achieved by utilising existing infrastructure through rehabilitation rather than new construction when feasible. This reduced cost and time, and improved the overall efficiency of the project. However, some findings suggested that improvements are needed regarding the quality of the outputs, such as the donkey carts where some quality improvements could be made. Even if the costs of higher quality donkey carts would exceed the current costs, the outputs would likely deliver better value for money. CIS constructed valuable new water supply infrastructure, including irrigation infrastructures and terraces, as well as upgrading existing hafirs. Most veterinary posts were newly constructed, while existing migration routes were improved by adding milestones and signage as well as training.

The evaluation team finds the project to be highly **effective**. Overall, 52.40% (n=208) of respondents believe conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have decreased, and 45.59% (n=181) believe relations between these groups have improved: both indicators suggesting considerable improvements in peacebuilding. Beyond achieving simple outputs, there is thus clear evidence from all data sources that important outcomes in regards to the project goals and theory of change have been achieved.

Regarding result 1, CIS was able to bring conflict groups together through economically and mutually beneficial arrangements. The newly established markets didn't only function as a meeting platform, but also improved food supply and food security for some (15.87% of respondents were able to buy more additional food than twelve months ago). However, some market stall remained unused due to a lack of regular market activity, and the fact that some recipients of the stalls did not have a use for the stalls. Other activities, such as veterinary services, were high in demand and put high pressure on the available resources. Finally, the establishment of small-scale farms for women from different ethnic groups was also highly successful with no conflicts were reported and beneficiaries expressing positive interactions.

Result 2, to alleviate pressure on, and competition over natural resources through community-managed approaches and intermediate technologies, was achieved successfully. Most notably, a decrease in conflicts over natural resources was observed by the field teams. Village Development Committees (VDC) were found to be a strong instrument in this regard, particularly between communities in close geographic proximity and multiple opportunities for interactions. However, challenges remain in regards to addressing issues arising from pastoralists that travel from further away and thus have less interaction with any given community, and thus less incentive and opportunity for positive engagement. Currently, the existing mechanisms are less able to solve these conflicts and additional mechanisms are needed.

Beneficiaries expressed great satisfaction with activities falling under result 3, which included activities such as value chain studies, assessments of conflict and market dynamics, and attempts to incorporate beneficiaries into the value chain. Trainings were found to be extremely valuable, though some beneficiaries continue to request further follow-up and better access to seed capital, which is still not always available in the poorer communities.

Finally, result 4, which included activities such as the initiation of VSLAs and offering business development services and vocational training to young people, were once more much appreciated by beneficiaries. Among all respondents surveyed, 19.65% (n=78) had received training in crop production, 10.58% (n=42) in livestock production and support, 13.35% (n=53) had received vocational training, and 15.87% (n=63) had received business development services. In the design of income-generating activities, CIS had combined technical skills training with soft business skills training, as well as linking trained individuals with start-up capital, thus addressing many of the common issues with IGA-training activities

generally. While some respondents were able to use these skills and turn them into businesses, connection with other activities and follow-up can still be strengthened. More importantly, some youth expressed that they were not included in the discussions held by the VDCs, and that their representation could be better guaranteed.

CIS invested in the creation of mutual economic interests between rival groups in order to create a long-lasting **impact** of its activities. Mutually beneficial relationships between conflicting parties were for the most part established through markets. This in combination with an investment in agricultural techniques and livelihood diversification in order to decrease pressure on natural resources have led to a decrease in tensions between rival groups. The simultaneous approach to hard and soft methods of affecting the situation, by both building concrete infrastructure that alleviates the need for competition with facilitating interactions that build mutual trust and desire to co-operate, has large promise in regards to producing lasting impacts. However, the evaluation found that traditional mechanisms for conflict resolution (Jodeia) could be further strengthened, as this mechanism has the potential to deal with conflicts between farmers and nomadic pastoralists but is currently not yet reaching its potential.

A number of steps were taken to ensure **sustainability** of project activities. Training community members to provide services and establishing Community-based Organisations geared towards providing beneficiaries with technical knowledge and information. The establishment of the VDCs provides a promising mechanism to streamline the various interventions that take place in the community, and to amplify the voice, buy-in, and ownership of the beneficiaries, as the VDC can function as the main organ communicating with the implementing actor.

Forcier Consulting was able to ascertain that CIS has played an important role in improving household food security and income and contribute to building peaceful coexistence in the targeted communities. Overall, respondents show high levels of satisfaction with all activities something that is confirmed during focus group discussion and key informant interviews. It has to be noted, however, that some issues continue to exist. Moving forward, it is advisable to implement the following changes for the Secure Economies and Diversified Livelihoods for Peaceful Coexistence in South Darfur and South Kordofan (SEED) project in Sudan:

- Market stalls are not functioning as intended in several areas. There is both a lack of market activity in absolute terms, as well as an alternative use of the stalls. A rotating system of stalls, or communally owned stalls, may be a better system.
- Community-based approaches to natural resource management have been successful as long as they concern known pastoralists and villagers. To improve mediation with unknown pastoralists who come from far, it is recommended that mediation be based on widely known traditional methods such as Jodeia.
- Youth skills trainings need to be embedded within the larger economic situation, for example tied to businesses offering apprenticeships or learning opportunities or mentorships. On the other hand, coaching and follow-ups could help transform this new knowledge into better practices.

1. Introduction

Care International Switzerland in Sudan (CIS) has been operational in South Darfur since 2009, with emergency and early recovery interventions in sectors such as WASH, Health and Nutrition, and Economic Empowerment. Through economic empowerment and other livelihood programs, CIS is addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Darfur and Kordofan, particularly the IDP communities. There are several projects being undertaken in the Darfur program, including livelihoods diversification, health improvement, women empowerment (with regard to reproductive health and rights), civil society strengthening, business engagement of the youth and women, and promoting conflict resolution and peaceful co-existence. This project in particular seeks to contribute to achieve stability and peace in South Kordofan and South Darfur, Sudan.

The Secure Economies and Diversified Livelihoods for Peaceful Coexistence in South Darfur and South Kordofan (SEED) project is one of the European Union's (EU) Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (ICSP) projects implemented in Sudan. The project aimed to improve household food security and income and contribute to building peaceful coexistence. SEED was implemented in two localities of South Darfur (namely, Kass and Gereida) and in three localities of South Kordofan (namely, Abu Jebeiha, Rashad and Alabassiya). The total beneficiaries were 8,525 households targeting women, youth, traders and traditional leaders in the pastoralist and farming communities (approximately 51,150 individuals).

The project had four specific objectives, with the overarching goal of contributing to peacebuilding between pastoralist and sedentary communities:

- Result 1:** Mutual economic interest kept between the conflicting groups, especially pastoralists & farmers.
- Result 2:** Pressure on natural resources and competition over resources alleviated through community managed approaches and intermediate technologies.
- Result 3:** The potential economic opportunities in the target areas are explored, diversified and strengthened.
- Result 4:** Youths from both sexes have increased skills and access to economic opportunities that meet demand in local and regional markets.

2. Purpose of Assessment

2.1 *Aim of Assessment*

With the above in mind, the overall objective of the evaluation of SEED in South Darfur and South Kordofan was to provide information about the performance of the project, document the lessons learned, and provide practical recommendations for future improvements. It assessed the level of achievement of the intervention objects, especially in terms of outcomes and emerging impact, and specifically evaluated the following:

1. The **relevance** of the project design (its activities and objectives) in addressing the priority issues in the targeted community groups and institutions;
2. The extent to which the project resources have been used economically and timely (**efficiency**).
3. The major achievements in relation to planned outputs of the project to date (**effectiveness**);
4. The extent to which the project is contributing to a long-term positive effect or to achieving stability and peace in South Kordofan and South Darfur (**impact**);
5. Identify which positive outcomes of the project are likely to continue after the project phased out (**sustainability**);
6. Assess particular bottlenecks, opportunities and lessons learned.

The evaluation specifically focused on peacebuilding and conflict mitigation between the various communities in the area. Within peacebuilding, the focus lied on assessing progress made regarding resource-based conflicts, migratory patterns and controls over pastures. Another source of conflict in these areas have been the markets, where farmers have typically controlled stalls, leaving little room for pastoralist-owned market stalls. Finally, youth unemployment, absence of market information and access to microfinance will be assessed. Research design was based on the OECD-DAC guidelines for evaluating conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities and guided the development of the various tools.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Quantitative Survey

Two Forcier Researchers conducted the quantitative household survey, leading a group of six enumerators each. Almost four hundred household surveys were conducted in the four localities, with the emphasis on data collection in South Darfur, considering the strength of programming in this area. Sampled villages in Kass locality included Hashaba, Tabafatou, Bulbul, Umjekhemhees, Fadwa and Kusolou. In Gereida locality, Dekkma and Um Ateran villages were sampled. In South Kordofan, 57 observations were collected in Rashad, and 92 observations were collected in Abu Jubeiha.

Table 1: Quantitative data collection

Locality	No. of Observations
Kass	149
Gereida	100
Rashad	57
Abu Jubeiha	92
Total	397

2.2.2 Qualitative Research

Qualitative interviews were conducted with multiple types of respondents in order to elicit narrative and in-depth information about the project activities. Three focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted in each locality. One community leader was interviewed in a key informant interview (KII), while another KII was conducted with state-level CIS staff. Furthermore, three case studies per state were collected. The following table specifies the total data that was collected:

Table 2: Qualitative data collection

Tool	Participants	Location
FGD	Farmers	Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur
FGD	Pastoralists	Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur
FGD	Youth	Bubul, Alsalam, South Darfur
KII	Community Leader	Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur
KII	CIS Field Staff	Kass, South Darfur
KII	CIS Field Staff	Gereida, South Darfur
KII	Community Leader	Um Teran, Gereida, South Darfur
KII	Community Leader	Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur
Case Story 1	Male	Daba Nayira, South Darfur
Case Story 2	Female	Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur
Case Story 3	Male	Kusolou, Kass, South Darfur
Case Story 4	Female	Dekkma, Gereida, South Darfur
Case Story 5	Male	Um Teran, South Darfur
Case Story 6	Female	Dekkma, Gereida South Darfur
FGD	Farmers	Kabous, Rashad, South Kordofan
FGD	Pastoralists	Kabous, Rashad, South Kordofan
FGD	Youth	Kabous, Rashad, South Kordofan
KII	CIS Field Staff	Kabous, Rashad, South Kordofan
KII	Community Leader	Al Dalibat Abu Jubeiha, South Kordofan
Case Story 1	Male	Kabous, Rashad, South Kordofan
Case Story 2	Female	Al Rahmania, Abu Jubeiha, South Kordofan

2.3 Limitations

Analysis of the quantitative data is limited due to the restrictions placed on the quantitative and qualitative data collection. With regards to the household survey in South Kordofan, amendments were made per instruction of the local formal stakeholders, which led to the removal of a large number of questions in the demographics module, and several questions regarding economics relations and natural resources. The removal of questions problematized the analysis of certain socioeconomic indicators, and thus limits the survey in several areas. In order to mitigate this, extensive debriefs with the enumerators were held on a daily basis.

During fieldwork, significant time and travel restrictions were imposed on the team leader and enumerators in South Kordofan. With limited permissions from the local authorities, the collection of quantitative data was emphasized, and the possibilities of qualitative data collection were limited. Nevertheless, the team successfully collected several FGDs (3) KIIs (2) and case stories (2) to illustrate change stories. The high reliance on quantitative data limits information to answer the 'why' and 'how' questions. As such, the team leader was instructed to collect extensive notes. After data collection, extensive debriefs were held with the team leaders.

Team leader notes were used to supplement qualitative notes. However, the observational notes from the team leaders only represent observations during the time of the data collection from the point of

view of the team leader and as such are less reliable, valid, and comprehensive, compared to the qualitative data otherwise collected from a variety of stakeholders.

3. Findings

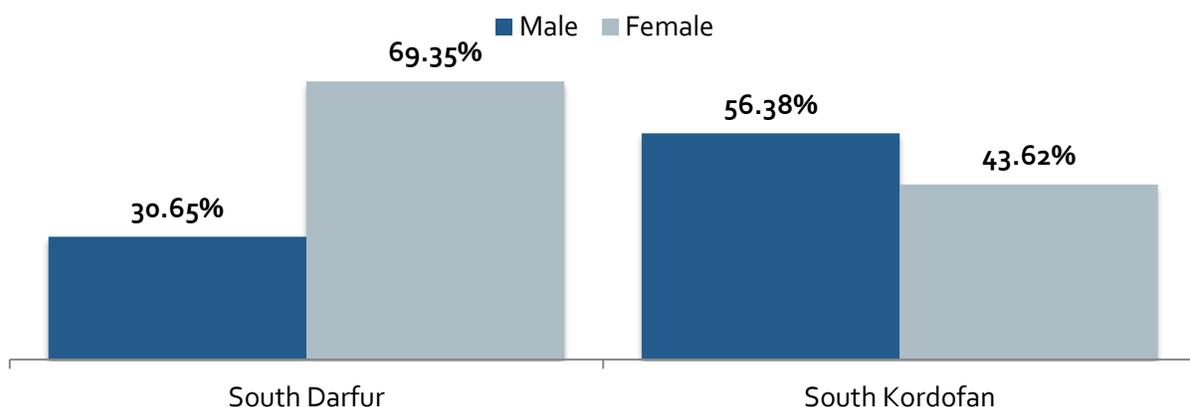
The report is structured according to the OECD-DAC criteria that were used for the evaluation. Section 3.1 Demographics provides detailed background information on the sampled population in the two states. When possible, aggregate numbers per state or relevant socioeconomic indicators, such as gender, education level or employment status, are reported.

3.1 Demographics

As mentioned in section 2.3 Limitations, demographic information from South Kordofan is limited, rendering comparison to information from South Darfur problematic. However, overall the report finds that the states are relatively similar.

Overall, 59.70% (n=237) of the sampled population was female. However, this percentage was higher in South Darfur (69.35%, n=172) than in South Kordofan (43.61%, n=65). This is mainly due to the sampling and random walk pattern in South Kordofan, where urban areas in Abu Jubeiha and Rashad were sampled, as well as farms. Ordinary urban areas are more frequently led by a male head of household, compared to IDP households in camps or settlements, while farms are also often led by a male head of household. Despite adjusting expectation for rural-urban differences, male respondents outweighed female respondents, in South Kordofan, suggesting that there are differences in household availability or household composition that may cause these issues. For example, displacement of women might have been stronger in South Kordofan, leading to a higher percentage of male-headed households in the area. In addition to this, the mean age of respondents was 39 years old.

Figure 1: Gender distribution, by state (n=397)

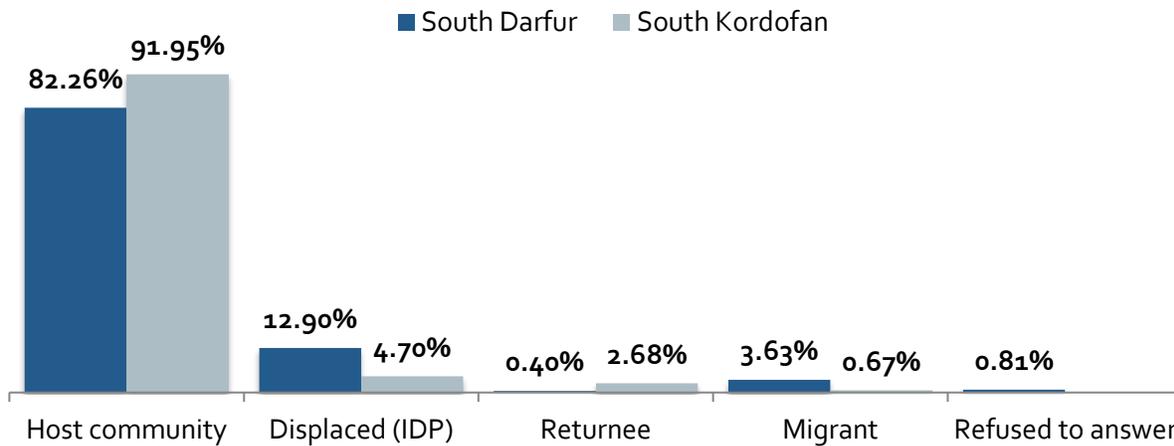


Due to the limitations discussed in section 2.3, certain information was only collected for South Darfur. For example for available services, 91.94% (n=228) of households in South Darfur had access to a school, 29.44% (n=73) had access to a health care centre, 5.65% (n=14) had access to a child friendly space, 9.68% (n=24) had access to a nutrition centre, 59.27% (n=147) had access to a market and 33.87% (n=84) had

access to clean water. Similarly, data on literacy and household composition was only collected in South Darfur. Surprisingly, sampled women were significantly more literate than men, with 79.07% (n=136) indicating they were able to read and write, compared to 35.53% (n=27) of men.

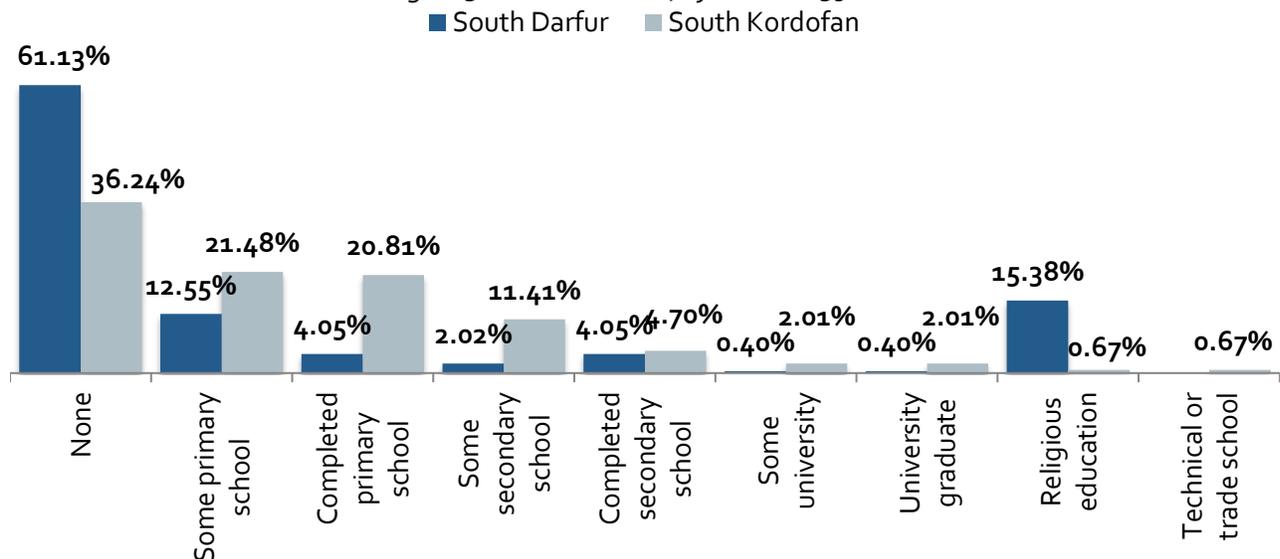
The majority of the sampled population were members of the host community. However, significantly more respondents in South Kordofan were host community members – a finding that corresponds with the male-headed households.

Figure 2: Respondent type, by state (n=397)



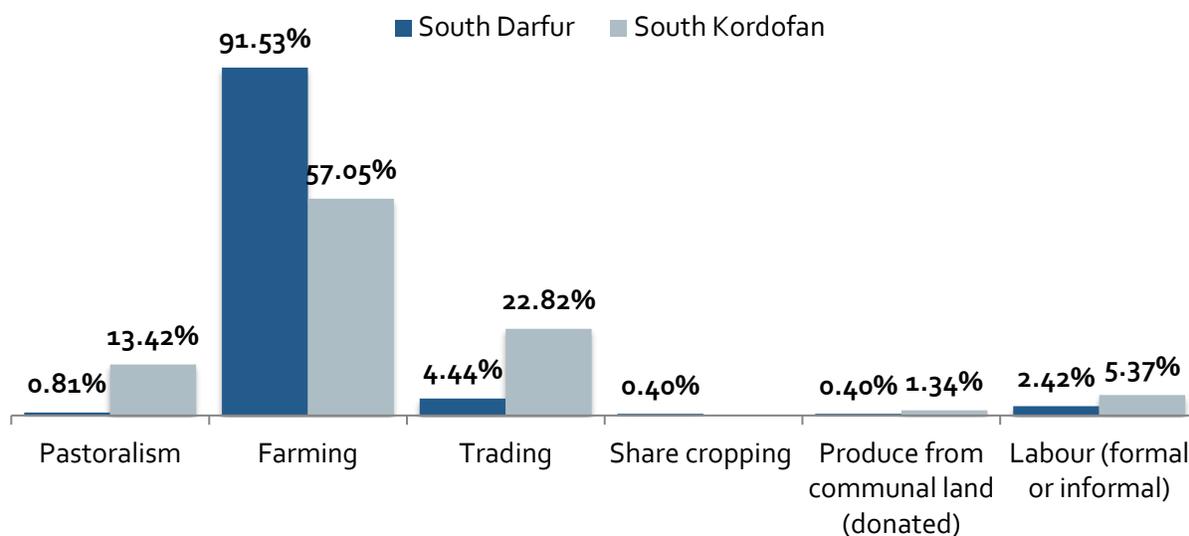
Additional information was collected regarding the respondents' educational attainment. Overall, 51.64% (n=205) of respondents did not receive any kind of education, the mean age of whom was 41 years old. Only 15.87% (n=63) of respondents had received some primary school education. Overall, respondents in South Kordofan were significantly more often formally educated, and females were more likely to have received formal education than men. Respondent type was not a significant determinant of educational attainment, meaning that IDPs or returnees were not less likely to receive education compared to members of the host community.

Figure 3: Education level, by state (n=396)



Respondents were also asked about employment status and most important source of income or livelihood. 46.85% (n=186) said they were not employed, while 27.96% (n=111) said they were employed, as a farmer. However, a much higher percentage of 78.59% (n=312) indicated that farming was their most important source of income. This is likely explained that although respondents consider themselves to be formally unemployed, small-scale (sustenance) farming is the main source of livelihood for their household. Livelihoods were more diversified in South Kordofan, where in addition to farming (57.05%, n=85), trading (22.82%, n=34) and pastoralism (13.42%, n=20) were both important sources of livelihood. In addition to the respondents' own employment status or that of the head of the household, 22.98% (n=91) of households had other members of the households in paid labour, ranging between one to three additional household members bringing contributing to the household income. Overall, the mean income of the sample population was 240 Sudanese pounds (SDG) per month, being significantly higher in South Kordofan (420 SDG) than in South Darfur (133 SDG).

Figure 4: Most important source of livelihood or income, by state (n=397)



In line with the previous findings, produced food (agriculture) was the main source of food for 81.11% (n=322) of the households, while 17.63% (n=70) bought the majority of their food at the market. Again, while agriculture was the main source of food for households in South Darfur (89.92%, n=223), this was only 66.44% (n=99) in South Kordofan. Considering this, it is unsurprising that 66.75% (n=265) of respondents (81.85% in South Darfur) indicated that they would need a lot more food to provide everyone in their household with food. The reliability of food sources also differed: respondents for whom agricultural produce was the main source of food experienced inability to get food from this source significantly more often than those who bought food at the market. From the 43.58% (n=173) of respondents who said this happened frequently, 89.02% (n=154) relied on agriculture as the source of food for their household.

Respondents were also asked about the likelihood of gaining access to emergency funds, a question that indicates resilience among respondents. 49.37% (n=196) of respondents indicate that they are not at all likely to gain access to 300 SDG within three weeks for an emergency purpose. 27.96% (n=111) said they would be somewhat likely, and 22.42% (n=89) said they were very likely. Respondents who were employed, versus respondents who were unemployed, are expected to see a 132% increase in the likelihood of gaining access to emergency funds. Similarly, female respondents are expected to see a 57.7% decrease in the likelihood of gaining access to emergency funds.

For those who were somewhat or very likely to gain access to funds, 33.00% (n=66) would gain so from household savings, and 17.50% (n=35) from income from work. Considering this is a reversible coping strategy, this is not a damaging way to deal with difficulties. However, 18.00% (n=36) also indicated they would sell household assets, which is considered a damaging coping strategy that negatively impacts resilience. Only 8.00% (n=16) would source these funds from community loans, while 7.50% (n=15) would rely on donations or community support, and 4.50% (n=9) would rely on support from extended family.

On the macro level, the sampled communities are predominantly members of the host community, of whom a large part rely on agriculture as the most important source of livelihood. Considering the various shocks that agriculture is sensitive to, including natural disasters such as droughts and floods as well as conflict and displacement, this dependency increases the communities' vulnerability. As such, CARE's activities in strengthening these agricultural livelihoods as well as supporting the diversification of livelihoods are highly relevant. Overall, household resilience, as demonstrated in their ability to access 300 SDG in emergency funds within two weeks, remains problematic, although there were no significant differences between host community households and IDPs. Considering that women have smaller chances of accessing funds than men, it would logically follow that female-headed households are even less resilient than male-headed households, although employment status remains the most significant determinant of access to emergency funds.

3.2 Relevance

Relevance within this context focuses on the extent to which the intervention was suited to the priorities and policies of the target group and beneficiaries. To that extent, the evaluation assessed the extent to which the programme objectives were valid, whether the activities and outputs fell within the overall goal of the intervention, and whether they were consistent with the intended impacts and effects. Considering the overall goal of peacebuilding, the evaluation specifically considered the following questions:

Table 3: Relevance - Guiding Questions

Relevance
Is the intervention working on the right issues in this context at this time?
Does the intervention address the relevant causes of conflict, key dynamics and driving factors, or key driving constituencies of the conflict?
Are the stated goals and objectives relevant to issues central to the conflict? Do activities and strategies fit objectives?
Has the intervention been flexible and adapted to changing circumstances?
What is the relevance of the intervention as perceived by beneficiaries and external observers?

CIS identified land rights, market dynamics and (youth) unemployment as key issues to address in South Darfur and South Kordofan. Conflict dynamics between farmers and pastoralists were at the centre of programming efforts. The proposed theory of change was that by building economic relationships between conflicting groups, alleviating pressure on natural resources, diversifying income sources and creating employment opportunities, stability and peace would be achieved. Key conflict drivers in South Darfur and South Kordofan have been competition over natural resources, especially between sedentary and nomadic populations. As such, the goals and objectives formulated for the intervention are highly relevant to the issues central to conflict.

The activities and strategies carried out during the process are tailored to address these needs. For example, building mutual economic interest between competing groups has been centred on improving market infrastructure, as the market functions as platform for groups to meet and interact. In this area, CIS employed a holistic approach by rehabilitating the market itself, as well as improving transportation to the market. Economic integration of pastoralists was addressed with veterinary services and training community animal health workers (CAHWs), while integration of female IDPs was supported with the establishment of small-scale farms.

Case Story

Osman is twenty-seven years old. He lives in Um Teran with his wife and two sons, age one and three. Some years ago, he only worked during the rainy season on a rented farm and was unemployed the rest of the year. Osman was unable to provide his household with three meals a day and consequently he and his wife were often left hungry. Other costs, including health expenses, Osman was almost never able to cover. Every day, Osman would worry that he would not be able to provide his sons with the future they deserved.

One day, CARE came to Osman's village and offered him the opportunity to partake in a training about veterinary assistance. Osman knew he has to take this opportunity and participated in the two-week training. At the end of the training, he was equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to become a community animal health worker. CARE's support didn't stop there, though. A animal health centre was established and medicines and other supplies were provided.

Osman, now fully determined to make full use of the skills acquired through the training, showed his determination through his work as a community health worker. His commitment payed off when he was offered a job as a veterinary assistant in the animal health centre established by CARE. Currently, Osman makes around 300 SDG a month as a veterinary assistant and during the rainy season he still works on the rented farm.

"Finally I am able to take responsibility for my family. I am able to cover all our household costs and I am also saving some money every month in case a shock occurs. The training from CARE has encouraged me to make the most out of my life. Now, I want to study veterinary sciences in university."

Regarding the conflict dynamics between pastoralists and farmers specifically, management of seasonal movement was addressed with the establishment and demarcation of migratory routes. Direct competition over limited resources such as water, were addressed with the construction of water sources for nomads, while also providing veterinary services. The construction of durable water sources such as hafirs (earth dams) is especially relevant. Overall, efforts made towards increasing agricultural production strengthen resilience and livelihoods among the target beneficiaries.

"Towards the end of autumn, the available water decreases and the pastoralists come looking for water. Sometimes the only available sources are in the middle of the farm, or the farms are in the road to the water sources. Then, the pastoralists have no other way but to enter these farms."¹

¹ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Ties between pastoralists and sedentary communities were strengthened, as members of the villages were trained to provide services to pastoralists. However, demand for the services was extremely high, burdening the available resources. This was especially the case in Rahmania and Kabous in South Kordofan, as large herds required large amounts of resources to be treated. Using the provision of services as a means to increase interaction between the groups is a relevant and appropriate design in itself, another key effort towards driving change.

"Some CAHWs were selected from the farmers community to serve the pastoralists, making them very accepted. The selected CAHWs work in harmony with the community members and become sources of knowledge and information that can be consulted for different aspects of community life."²



Irrigation beds in South Darfur

Pastoralists in the focus group discussion in Tabafatou expressed the need for specific agricultural support. While the sedentary population mostly experienced an increase in agricultural production, the pastoralists explained that they did not receive support during this project.³ This is remarkable since CARE makes it a key priority to serve both farmers and pastoralists in order to avoid tensions between both groups. In some areas, the number of pastoralist receiving services is even higher than the number of farmers receiving services. Despite this fact, it is important to take into consideration that the pastoralist spoke to in the focus group discussion considered themselves to be disadvantaged compared to the farmers. It is thus important to clearly convey a message to both groups that services are equally spread between farmers and pastoralists. In addition, future programming could benefit from a more in-depth needs assessment of the pastoralists' needs to ensure more tailored service delivery to beneficiaries.

² KII with CIS Staff. 5 March 2017. Kass, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

³ FGD with Pastoralists. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Focusing on the economic integration of women and youth further strengthened self-reliance, resilience and diversified livelihoods. Activities such as vocational training, business development services (BDS), and community-based microcredit systems allow young people and women to undertake income-generating activities and establish steady streams of income. Implementing these activities are crucial in order for beneficiaries to translate newly acquired skills into business ideas. Vocational trainings programs with strong linkages to seed-capital systems are likely to be much more successful, as they encourage behavioural change and provide beneficiaries with not only the tools and knowledge necessary to act, but also with the capital and hard assets to practice this knowledge.

“CIS trained young people on skills, and others were given donkey carts, and again others had small amounts of money as start-up capital. Those young people had great opportunities, and most of the young people farm on their household farm.”⁴

The figure on the next page illustrates the most frequently cited challenges that youth face in the community. Indeed, unemployment was the most mentioned challenge, mentioned by 90.43% (n=359) of all respondents, something which was also confirmed in the qualitative interviews. A caveat of this particularly high number is that it is a snapshot of the situation at the time of surveying, and that seasonal changes in employment are reflected. For example, during the agricultural season, it may be easier for young people to find temporary employment, while it will be more difficult during off season. This was closely followed by a lack of education or literacy among young people: 65.24% (n=259) of respondents mentioned this as a challenge. Although the mean number of challenges cited is 4.62, this is on average higher in South Kordofan. There, the mean number of challenges cited is 5.60, compared to 4.03 in South Darfur. Certain specific challenges, such as lack of representation at the community level, conflict/displacement, and juvenile delinquency, are mentioned considerably more often in South Kordofan than South Darfur, highlighting the different nature of challenges. Furthermore, overall 11.59% (n=46) indicated that youth struggled with not having access to land or natural resources, as this prevented them from owning their own farms or building their own livelihoods. Highlighting the various challenges that respondents believe are obstacles for the development of youth in their community has the potential to inform future programming. For example, in South Kordofan, youth expressed dissatisfaction with the degree of their involvement in community-based organizations (CBOs). This is reflected in the chart on the next page, and provides guidance for further programming.

⁴ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Figure 5: Youth challenges, by state (n=397)



However, other evidence suggests that certain project activities were not fully tailored to local needs. For example, respondents in South Kordofan reported that donkey carts were given to people who did not own donkeys, or had no access to the necessary capital to purchase a donkey. A handful of those donkey carts were observed to be standing idle around the respondent's dwelling in South Kordofan.⁵ In addition, some of the recipients of the donkey carts reported poor quality, which is reflected in perceived effectiveness, and a lack of knowledge on how to repair carts when they broke down. For future programming, supplementing the distribution of items with training the capacity to maintain the assets, is crucial.

Also, beneficiaries in South Kordofan shared stories of market stalls that were given to beneficiaries, but who had no use for them and were leasing them to other people. While those who leased their stalls still were able to generate in income, these recipients should have been provided with assets suited to their personal needs. Other stalls went reportedly unused, and their functionality was limited. These anecdotal findings suggests that additional needs assessments could have been conducted to confirm the needs

⁵ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

and usability of these activities, either prior to implementation or during implementation as part of mid-term review should circumstances and needs have changed. Beneficiaries for activities were selected by both community committees, as well as through CIS assessments. However, several respondents indicated that felt the selection procedures were not always inclusive and clearly communicated.

In general, CIS designed activities that were highly relevant to the identified needs. Youth unemployment and scarcity of natural resources were found to be among the most pressing challenges in the targeted communities and, as such, it can be concluded that the choice to design activities specifically to deal with these issues suited the targeted communities. The youth survey provides an understanding of the challenges perceived as most urgent in the community, and activities were clearly tailored to their needs. Commendable in this regard is the designed linkages between the various activities addressing youth unemployment (e.g. vocational trainings programs with strong linkages to seed-capital systems). Instead of relying on a strict theory of change that if youth are taught technical skills, then they will find employment, CIS paid close attention to other enabling factors. By considering not only technical skills, but also the importance of soft skills and access to business capital in eventually finding employment, CIS used a full-spectrum approach. Similarly, issues addressed in the farming activities, such as the approach of terracing, were found to be appropriate and relevant.

3.3 Efficiency

To assess efficiency, the evaluation measured the outputs in relation to the inputs, and determined the appropriateness of the implemented strategies over other alternatives. Efficiency also refers to the timeliness of implementation and any notable delays.

Table 4: Efficiency - Guiding Questions

Efficiency
Did the intervention deliver outputs and outcomes in an efficient manner, when considering results against costs?
How does this intervention compare to other options for achieving the same goals?
How well were resources used to achieve results?

No notable delays were found during the evaluation on the project. During conversation with beneficiaries, the majority was extremely satisfied with the services provided by CARE, and felt that CIS delivered on its promises.

*"CIS delivered on all promises that were made to us, and implemented the projects on time. All the activities were on time, except the terraces programme, which had to be done in two periods. It started in one year and was finished in the following year. They told us activities in a certain domain would be implemented in a specific time, and actually the implementation was done in the same period as that we were told."*⁶

*"Some projects were carried out on time and some were not. For example, the terraces were done this autumn while they had told us it would be done in the previous autumn. The reason they gave us for this delay was missing funding, and it could have been carried out on time if they had the funding."*⁷

⁶ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

⁷ KII with Community Leader. 6 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

CIS staff did identify minor project delays, mostly due to external factors or seasonal issues. These included signing various agreement, the seasonality of certain agricultural activities, and the restriction of movement in the Jebel Marra -adjacent areas.⁸

Overall, by rehabilitating, rather than constructing new infrastructure when possible, CIS was able to identify and build on existing infrastructure. Using existing structures reduces cost and time, and improves overall efficiency of the project. This is especially the case for rehabilitating the market infrastructure, and improving transportation on the roads leading up to the market and around the market. Anecdotal evidence on the quality of the outputs, such as the donkey carts as mentioned in section 3.4.1, suggests that improvements could be made to improve the quality. In this case, allocating resources towards the procurement of these outputs could deliver better value for money, even if the costs may increase. In other cases, CIS constructed valuable new water supply infrastructure, including irrigation infrastructures and terraces, while hafirs were upgraded. The majority of veterinary posts were newly constructed, while existing migration routes were strengthened by adding milestones and signage as well as training.

3.4 Effectiveness

Effectiveness refers to the extent to which the intervention attained its objectives. The evaluation also determines which major factors influenced the achievement and non-achievement of the objectives. Considering the conflict-affected environment and peacebuilding objectives, the evaluation was guided by the following questions:

Table 5: Effectiveness - Guiding Questions

Effectiveness
Has the intervention achieved its purpose, or can it reasonably be expected to do so?
Has/will the effort achieve progress in a reasonable timeframe? Can it be accelerated or should it be slowed down?
Did the effort prompt people to increasingly resist violence and provocations to violence?
Did the effort improve and encourage non-violent forms or conflict resolution or power management?
Did the efforts results in real improvement in relations among the various groups?
Do the stakeholders affected have an impact on the conflict, i.e. have the key people been addressed?
Were gender and relevant horizontal inequalities, such as ethnicity, religion and geography, taken into consideration?
Did the effort result in an increase in people’s security and sense of security?
What major factors contributed to the achievement or non-achievement of the project?

This section then follows by discussing the effectiveness of the activities under the four results: 1) mutual economic interest between conflict groups, 2) alleviation of pressure and competition over natural resources, 3) exploring, diversifying and strengthening potential economic opportunities, and 4) enhancing skills and access to economic opportunities of youth.

⁸ KII with CIS Staff. 4 March 2017. Kass, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Indicator	Target	Outcome
% reduction in violent confrontations between pastoralists and farmers	N/A	33% (n=131) report a small decrease in conflict, 19.40% (n=77) report a large decrease. 18.14% (n=72) said it remained unchanged, while 18.39 % (n=73) reported a small increase, and 6.80% (n=27) reported a large increase. 4.28% refused to answer.
# economic activities being carried out jointly by conflicting groups (pastoralists and farmers) (Target: 116 activities)	116	105 ⁹
# of community based NRM structures functional (Target: 20 committees)	20	18 (in 14 communities) ¹⁰
% of community members reporting improved relations between farmers and pastoralists as a direct result of project activities	70%	46% report improved relations (31.99% (n=127) report a small improvement in relations, 13.60% (n=54) report a large improvement.)
# of community managed NRM system established and strengthened	14	14 ¹¹
# of new livelihood opportunities introduced in target communities	10 opportunities, 1,000 beneficiaries	15 opportunities, 750 beneficiaries (+125 rollout effect) ¹²
% of target beneficiaries reported more sources of livelihood	3,000 beneficiaries participating in 120 VSLAs	4,924 beneficiaries participating in 120 VSLAs (+197 beneficiaries in BDS) ¹³
% of target beneficiaries reported increase in real income	3,000 beneficiaries including 1000 incorporated in value chain	42% report increased income (27.20% (n=108) reported income had somewhat increased in the past year, while 14.61% (n=58) reported a strong increase in income)
# of youth received VT and report access to economic opportunities. Target 100 beneficiaries.	100	99 ¹⁴

⁹ SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

¹⁰ SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

¹¹ SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

¹² SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

¹³ SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

¹⁴ SEED Final Report, 15 March 2017.

3.4.1 Mutual economic interest between the conflict groups

In order to achieve result 1, “mutual economic interest kept between the conflicting groups, especially pastoralists and farmers,” several activities were carried out. Activities were centred on promoting mutual economic ties, interaction and sustained relations, which connected producers and consumers, and farmers and pastoralists, and brought benefit to all. To this end, CIS provided beneficiaries with market stalls to improve market engagement and profit making, provided beneficiaries with donkey carts to improve transportation around rehabilitated markets, provide veterinary services to pastoralists and establish small-scale farms.

To assess the perceived change in market stalls and local transportation around the rehabilitated markets, respondents were asked about the current state of the markets. As markets function as a meeting point for the various groups, a well-functioning, appealing market is key to a successful activity. As such, the report inquired about the use of markets and possible obstacles respondents faced when traveling to the market. Overall, the assessment found that respondents reacted positively to the various market activities, but the market stalls and donkey carts could have been distributed more efficiently, as beneficiaries indicated they were not all being used. In addition, the evaluation found that the terms and conditions of the distribution of certain non-food items were unclear, which led to confusion and misunderstanding of the activities. For example, beneficiaries who received stalls explained that they believed CIS would provide them with capital to start a business using the stall, and that they now “felt lied to,” as this was not delivered.¹⁵ However, considering that CIS did encourage the establishment of community-based organizations and loan savings associations, it is unlikely that there is an absolute lack of such funds. Instead, the link between the provision on market stalls and access to funds for business opportunities seems unclear to beneficiaries, and they could benefit from additional guidance in this area.



Market stalls in South Darfur

¹⁵ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

First, distance and travel time to the markets was assessed, finding that 43.07% (n=171) was less than one kilometre from a market, 32.75% (n=130) between one and three kilometres, 13.10% (n=52) between three and five, and 11.08% (n=44) more than five. With mean one-way travel time being 36 minutes, markets can be considered generally accessible. On average, respondents visited the market once a week, and 50.63% (n=201) indicated they would like to visit the market more frequently.

Mode of transport to the market was also assessed. 51.64% (n=209) of respondents walked to the market, while 31.49% (n=125) used the donkey cart. However, mode of transportation was not a significant determinant of travel time to the market: distance to the market was. Similarly, 58.19% (n=231) walk back from the market so they can carry their goods with them, while 24.69% (n=98) brings them back with the donkey cart. The majority of respondents uses the same mode of transport both ways (49.62%, n=197 walks both ways, 22.17%, n=88 uses the donkey cart both ways), while others opt for different modes. For example, 5.29% (n=22) walks to the market, but uses a donkey cart on the way back.

"The donkey carts are very useful to the families. For example, there is a family here who only has their mother as their father passed away. They were given donkey carts that helped them a lot in farming and carrying things."¹⁶

Respondents were further asked about the condition of the road they used to get to the market: 37.52% (n=149) said the roads were in good condition, while 5.79% (n=23) said the roads were in excellent condition. On the other hand, 26.95% (n=107) said the roads were neither good nor bad, while 14.86% (n=59) described them as being in poor condition, and 12.59% (n=50) said they were in very bad condition. People who used public transport to get to the markets in South Kordofan were most negative about the condition of the roads, while respondents who walked were most satisfied.

Due to limitations as discussed earlier, several other questions were only asked in South Darfur. Considering the more vulnerable situation in South Kordofan, especially on roads outside of villages, which people would have to use to move between their homes and the market, it is likely that these issues impact their view on the roads. For example, in South Darfur, only 4.84% (n=12) of respondents described the roads as very busy, or somewhat busy (20.56%, n=51). Only 6.05% (n=15) said they encountered issues on the roads leading up to the market very often, or somewhat often (16.53%, n=41).

By rehabilitating the stalls and reviving the market, CIS aimed to increase both supply and demand of agricultural food products and non-food items. To assess the functioning on the market, respondents were asked about the availability of various products on the market, as well as which food items they need, but are not available on the market. Food security, consumption and diversity were also assessed during the evaluation.

"All the people in Hashaba use the market in Kass, and the difference in prices between here and there are small. People in Kass sell their produce and buy other things they need in return, and the availability is obviously great there. People can find all the things they need."¹⁷

."Tuesday is market day in the village here, and Monday and Thursday there is market in Kass. Everything is available, but very expensive. You can buy all the things you need there though."¹⁸

Although the majority of the sellers at the market display their produce by laying it out on the ground (57.18%, n=227) or laid out on a blanket, carpet or tarp on the ground (27.71%, n=110), most respondents were generally satisfied with the cleanliness of the market. Asked only in South Darfur, 22.58% (n=56) said the market was very clean, while 27.42% (n=68) said it was somewhat clean and 24.19% (n=60) felt

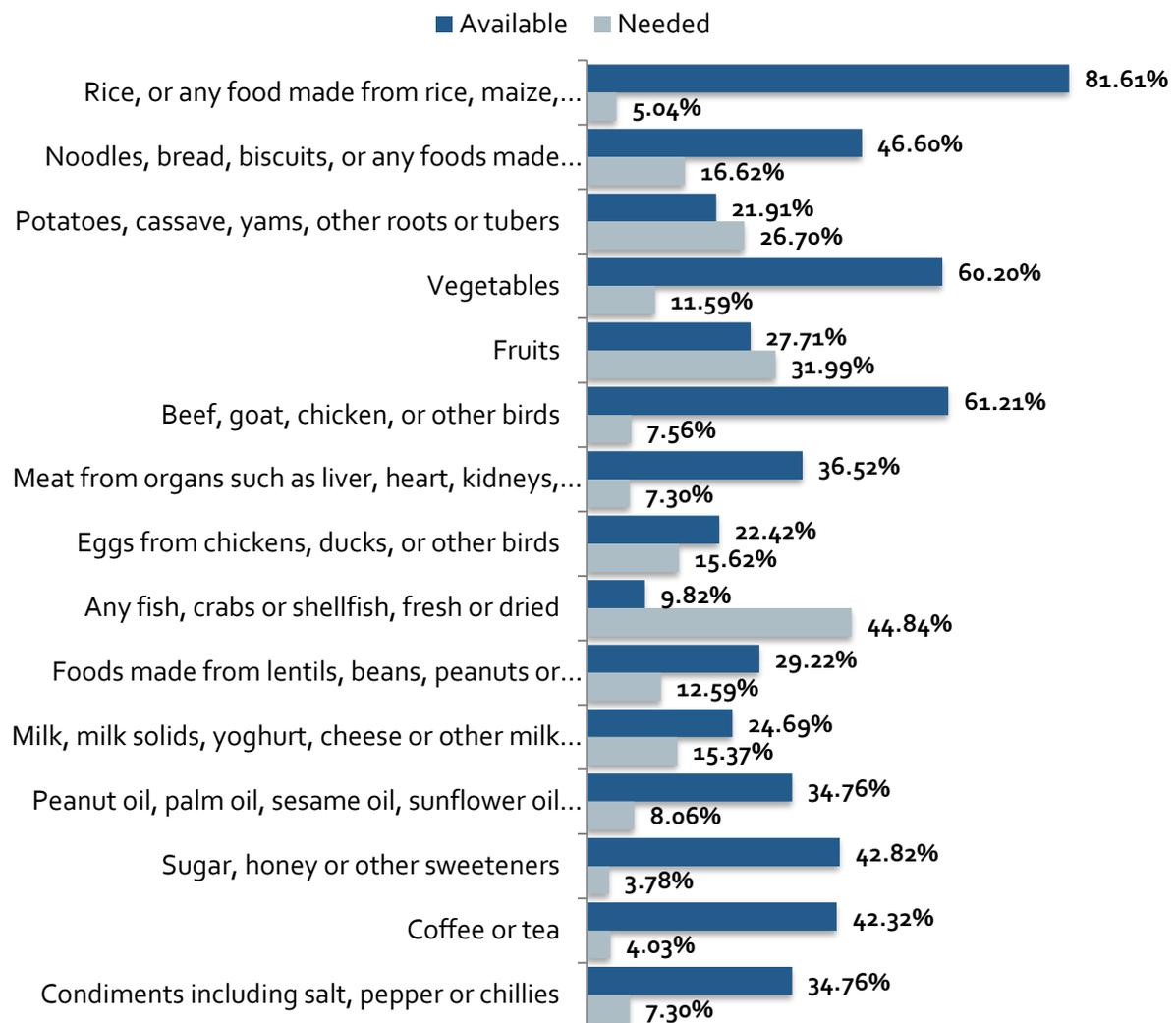
¹⁶ KII with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

¹⁷ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

¹⁸ FGD with Youth. 6 March 2017. Bubul, Alsalam, South Darfur, Sudan.

relatively neutral. The various ways that stallholders sell their goods confirms that there is a need for the market stalls. However, the main reasons for unused market stalls that were observed during data collection was a lack of regular market activity, and the fact that some recipients of the stalls did not have a use for the stalls. The latter group either did not run a business (for which a stall was necessary), or lacked the capital to establish such a business. As a result, some stalls were used on market days in small villages, although they were more intensively used on larger market areas such as Kass and Tajmalla, while other stalls were rented out to people other than the initial recipient. Even though renting the market stalls to other recipients provided the initial recipients with an income, to improve the effectiveness of the distribution, assessing the market activity and investing in thorough respondent selection, is recommended.

Figure 6: Available and needed food items (n=397)



Only 28.46% (n=113) of respondents said that on a regular market day, they were able to buy all the different items they needed. This was significantly higher in South Darfur (83.06%, n=206) than in South Kordofan (45.64%, n=68). This is likely explained by the relative easier agriculture in South Kordofan compared to South Darfur.

Respondents were also asked about the current availability of certain food groups, and which ones they needed, but were not typically available at the market. The food items that were by far the most available were staple foods such as rice, maize, wheat, millet and sorghum, while the demand was strongest for fish, crabs and shellfish. For such staple foods, the markets (41.02%, n=153) and own farms (55.76%, n=208) were the most cited sources. On the other hand, those who had consumed vegetables in the previous week, most often bought these from the market (60.71%, n=68) instead of producing them themselves. Indeed, markets remain the key food source for a diversified and nutritious diet, as fruit, meat, and dairy products are overwhelmingly purchased there.

Respondents with access to meat were asked about the current quality of meat, and whether they had experienced any changes in the quality, compared to two years ago. Considering CARE's activities in supporting the region with slaughterhouses to improve supply and quality of food, an improvement is expected. Indeed, on average, respondents described the quality of beef, goat, chicken, and other birds as good. However, respondents in South Kordofan were more satisfied than those in South Darfur: 61.80% (n=55) of respondents in South Kordofan considered it to be of very good quality, compared to 11.69% (n=18) in South Darfur.

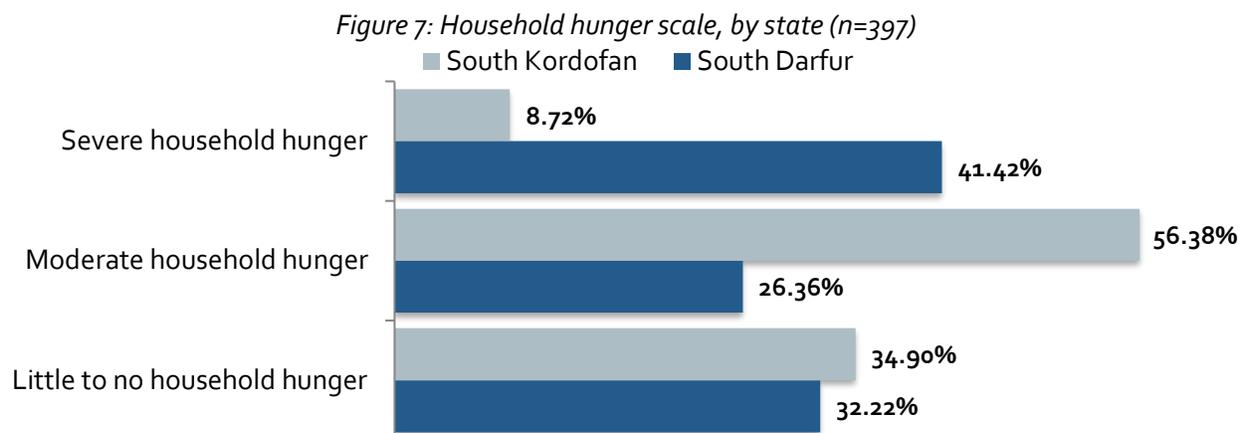
Overall 56.38% (n=137) of those respondents reported an improvement in quality, but 83.15% (n=74) in South Kordofan thought so, compared to 40.91% (n=63) in South Darfur. Findings for organ meats are almost identical: respondents in South Kordofan currently experience a higher quality on average, as well as a larger improvement. Increased availability of these products will in turn improve food security, as well as contribute to better-connected supply and demand, and employment opportunities. In South Kordofan for example, pleasant interactions between the rivalling groups were observed. In Tajmalla and Al Rahmania, "pastoralists sell meat and animals at the markets, and you can see them chatting with the other farmers and stall holders."¹⁹ These observed interactions confirm that the activities successfully strengthened the interactions and economics links between the two groups. These findings are in line with the envisioned outcome of promoting and enhancing mutual economic interest between rival groups. Rehabilitating the markets through the market stalls and improving local transportation around the rehabilitated markets has transformed the markets into a key meeting area and function as a vehicle to drive change in peacebuilding.

Market information and knowledge of (fluctuating) prices is important for consumers to make informed decisions about their purchases. 44.58% (n=177) of respondents indicated they were not aware of the price of food items until they arrived at the market, while 34.01% (n=135) asked the traders and sellers about the price, and 16.12% (n=64) asked neighbours, family, or community members about the price. While 61.96% (n=246) of respondents experienced difficulty with purchasing items from June to August, this was higher in South Darfur (75.40%, n=187), which is in line with the scarcer resources in that area. However, this finding suggests that increased efforts could be made to improve the consumer's access to information, as this will help them know what to expect when they arrive at the market and plan their resource spending more efficiently.

Differences in food security and agriculture are clearly visible between the two sampled states. While overall, 15.87% (n=63) of respondents indicated that they are able to buy more additional food than twelve months ago, this is driven by respondents in South Kordofan, where 29.53% (n=44) of respondents is able to do so, compared to 7.66% (n=19) of respondents in South Darfur. This is in line with previous findings, and reflected in the standardized household hunger scale in the figure below. As suggested by previous indicators, food insecurity in South Darfur is far more severe than in South Kordofan.

¹⁹ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

Emphasizing this situation is the fact that 57.26% (n=142) of respondents in South Darfur do not have enough food for all household members, compared to only 27.52% (n=41) in South Kordofan.



Finally, more in-depth information on the diversity, frequency, and source of consumption of various food items was collected. The most-consumed food group is staple foods, which are consumed several times per week and are usually purchased from the market (41.02%, n=153) or produced by the households (55.76%, n=208). Overall, consumption and diversity is in line with the availability of food items and the self-identified needs. Respondents throughout the evaluation emphasized that supply and variety at the larger markets had improved such as in Tajmalla, but that smaller markets such as in Al Dalibat, the markets did not see as much improvement. However, advice given to stallholders on how to keep their stalls clean did seem to lead to cleaner markets.²⁰

To further strengthen economic ties between rival groups, veterinary service posts along migratory routes were established, and pastoralists were supported with veterinary services and inputs. Indeed, these services supported the pastoralists, and they expressed their appreciation for the animal health workers who taught them how to take better care of their livestock and treat them with basic medicines.

Finally, women from different ethnic groups were involved in the establishment of small-scale farms. In Rahmania, several women from different tribes noted their excitement for being involved in the project, and did not see ethnic differences as barriers to their cooperation.

*"There is enough water and working the land is going well. Some of the seeds they need are not available in the market, but women were generally able to increase their income and providing their families with a better life, sending their kids to school. Within the farms, the women distributed the work evenly. For example, while one woman goes to the market to sell produce, the others distribute the farm tasks."*²¹

This activity is an example of small initiatives with a large reach. Not only does the facilitation of cooperation between people from different backgrounds. Beyond its initial effect – strengthening the relations between rival groups and establishing mutual economic interests – it leads to real, long-term impact. As the income of women increases, women are more likely to also send their children to school. This effect is illustrated by case stories such as those included in the annexes.

²⁰ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

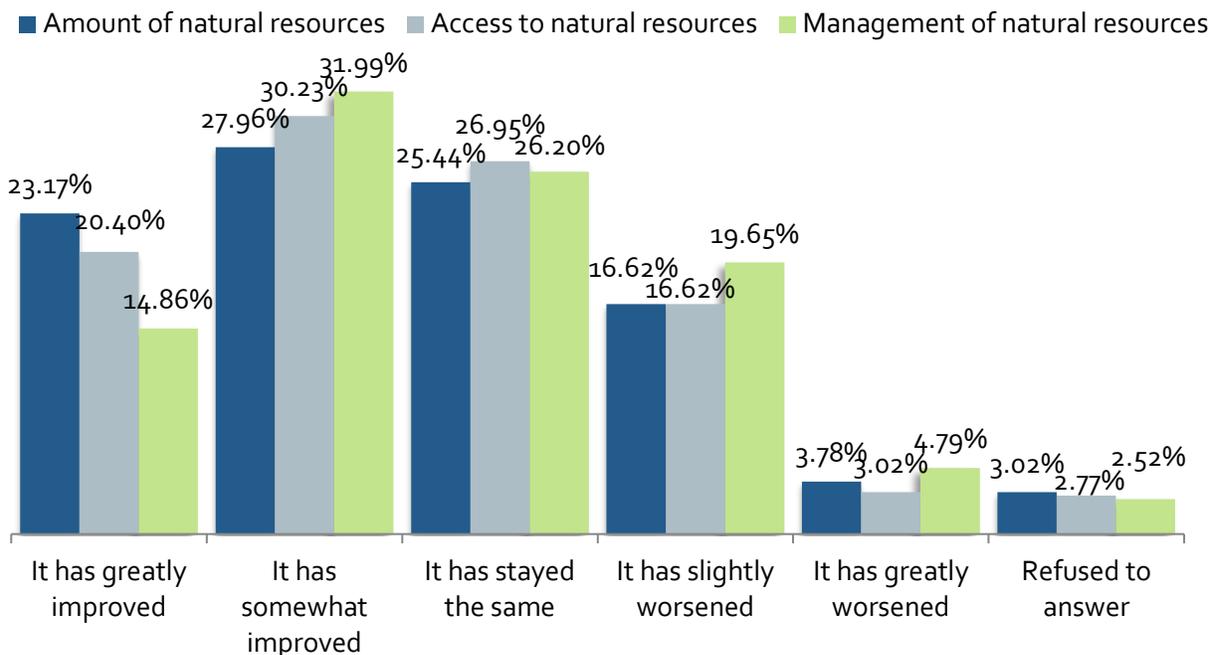
²¹ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

Overall, CIS has managed to tie conflict groups together through economically and mutually beneficial arrangements. The markets function as a venue for interactions and socialization through which relationships can be improved. Overall satisfaction is high, and beneficiaries indicated they already noticed effects, pointing towards achieved outcomes. On the long term, some projects have already led to longer term impacts.

3.4.2 Pressure on natural resources and completion over resources alleviated

Result 2 focused on alleviating pressure on natural resources and competition over resources through community-managed approaches and intermediate technologies. To this end, CIS constructed water points and earth dams, demarcated animal routes, provided beneficiaries with irrigation tools, crescent terraces and farming extension visits. The beneficiaries continuously emphasized the effect these activities had on their production, as harvests and overall agricultural skills and management improved.

Figure 8: Perceived changes in amount, access and management of natural resources (n=397)



First, all respondents were asked about their perception of the amount of available natural resources in their area, the access to these resources, and the management of these resources, as well as the changes that occurred, compared to two weeks ago. On a five-point scale, “greatly improved” is labelled 1, while “greatly worsened” is labelled 5. For example, although many respondents report a small improvement (31.99%, n=127) or a large improvement (14.86%, n=59) in management, this is significantly different depending on the respondent’s main source of livelihood. Respondents whose main livelihood is farming on average considered it to have somewhat improved, while the overall sample tended to consider it to stay more the same. The improvements perceived by respondents whose main livelihood is pastoralism were overall even more positive. 40.91% (n=9) thought it had somewhat improved, while 31.82% (n=7) said it had greatly improved. This suggests that the various activities under this result have overall led to an improvement.

More specifically, respondents were asked about the water sources, veterinary posts, demarcation of migratory routes, and overall farmer-pastoralist dynamics. Again, on a five-point scale, "very good" is labelled 1, and "very bad" is labelled 5. Overall, respondents considered the management of water sources to be moderate. However, respondents in South Darfur rated management of water sources significant more negative compared to those in South Kordofan. Access and availability of water, however, need to be taken into account for the interpretation of this result. In other words, the finding is likely skewed by the generally higher availability and access to water in South Kordofan. As such, the more negative rating of management of water sources is possibly due to factors unrelated to the actual management of water sources. Indeed, when spoken with pastoralists or VDC members from South Darfur, the management of water sources appears to be effective. Problems only exist when pastoralists come from far away areas:

"As pastoralists, we never attended school or received any kind of studies, but if any conflict happens, a meeting is called between the two sides. The people reach a solution by forgiving each other because the people know each other. It becomes difficult when pastoralists are coming from further away, because they are unfamiliar with the environment and rules. When they pass through during harvest season or cross a farmer's land, this always causes conflict and it is difficult for the farmers to maintain their rights."²²

"The usual problems occur during harvest time between farmers and pastoralists. Farmers can solve their conflicts with local pastoralists by using the traditional method called Jodeia, but not in the case with pastoralists who come from far. In this case, farmers always lose."²³

Demarcation of migratory routes was much needed and 38.54% (n=153) considered the management of migratory routes in their area to be good or very good, while 20.65% (n=82) considered it to be moderate, and 36.52% (n=145) thought management was bad or very bad. On average, pastoralists considered the management to be good, while farmers considered it to be moderate. If statements such as the one below refer to demarcation activities completed by CARE, it is possible that there is a need for improved communication regarding the routes, as well as improved management of the migratory routes by the locality demarcation committees. On the other hand, the statement may also refer to an informal route not established by CARE that is used by pastoralists.

"There is a migratory in the northeast from here, but we're not sure who established this route, and we're not sure if there is demarcation or not. Even so, the pastoralists who come from far do not listen to these rules."²⁴

Overall, evidence suggests that conflict between villagers and known pastoralists has decreased. The various community-based organizations functioned as meeting points and mediators, and conflicts over resources appear to have been mitigated. The current frictions arise mainly between the villagers and pastoralists that travel from further away, and are unfamiliar with the rules and mechanisms in place.

"Lately, the ways we live our lives have changed. Indeed, our lives are much better with the way in which we consult with others, and the peaceful way that we manage our conflicts."²⁵

²² FGD with Pastoralists. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

²³ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

²⁴ FGD with Pastoralists. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

²⁵ FGD with Pastoralists. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Project activities such as the establishment of veterinary posts are generally considered to be good, with no significant differences between states or livelihoods. Regarding the management of the migratory routes, although it was considered to be moderate overall, again this was viewed considerably more positively by respondents in South Kordofan. Pastoralists considered the management to be “good,” while farmers considered it to be moderate. This suggests that pastoralists view the demarcation of the routes as positive, while farmers are experience less change. Unsurprisingly, the opinions of how the farmers and pastoralists manage the migration routes are divided. On a five-point scale, “greatly improved” is labelled 1, while “greatly worsened” is labelled 5. Management by farmers is rated 2.8, while management by pastoralists is rated more negatively: 3.1. Both groups consider management of the other group to be worse than their own, but cooperation with known counterparts is generally good. Again, the issue appears to lie with travellers who come from afar.

The introduction of drip irrigation kits and crescent terraces was well received. However, beneficiaries suggested that the sustainability of the terraces could be improved by constructing them with materials such as clay soil or wood instead of sand so they would last longer than one season.²⁶ When considering this, it is pivotal that other aspects are taken into account, as for example using bricks would likely cause soil erosion on the farms. Nevertheless, farmers explained that the drip irrigation kits and crescent terraces resulted in a significant increase of farming production²⁷, making the activity especially effective.

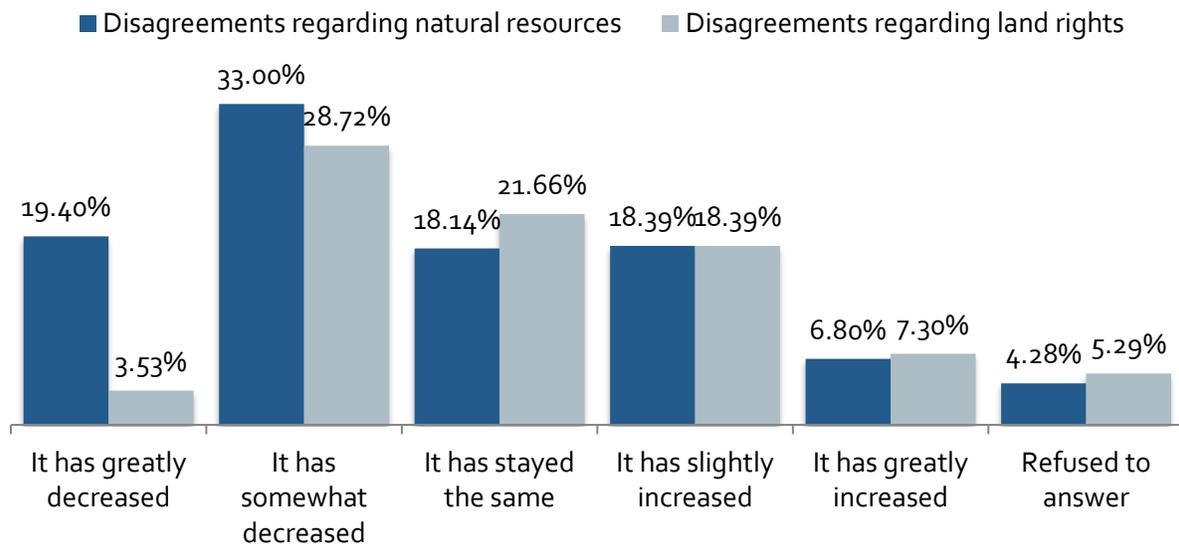
Finally, the questionnaire surveyed the perceptions of community members regarding the relations or interactions between farmers and pastoralists, the number of disagreements regarding natural resources, and the number of disagreements regarding land rights. Overall, respondents consider that the relations between the two groups have stayed the same (2.75 on the scale), but again significant differences between the states are visible.

The relations between farmers and pastoralists in relation to the management of natural resources and land have been improved during the project period in South Kordofan, as evidenced by the mean (1.79), whereas the change in this was insignificant in South Darfur (3.36). In regards to livelihood groups, pastoralists seem to be particularly positive about the change (2.18) with farmers expressing little change (2.85). The overall number of recorded conflicts and disagreements supports the improvement of relations. Overall, this is not surprising considering the different dynamics that farmers have with known pastoralists vis-à-vis unknown pastoralists. Pastoralists surveyed were largely known to the farmers, and were likely targeted in the activities, and would as a result report improvements. Farmers are likely to still have conflicts with unknown pastoralists who come from afar, and as such, their issues have not been fully resolved. This would then naturally be reflected in the perceived changes.

²⁶ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

²⁷ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Figure 9: Perceived changes between farmer-pastoralist disagreements over natural resources and land rights (n=397)



A key focal point in this intervention is the initiation and strengthening of a Village Development Committee (VDC). VDCs have been developed to streamline the cooperation between various actors and the communities, and to function as a community-based umbrella organization from which other interventions are coordinated. Overall, 53.40% (n=212) was aware of a VDC operating in their community, although respondents in South Kordofan were significantly more aware (71.81%, n=107) than respondents in South Darfur (42.34%, n=105). Respondents in South Kordofan also rated the transparency of the VDCs more positively. Although overall it was rated to be good, respondents in South Kordofan on average considered it to be very good. The VDCs were further considered to be somewhat useful, while management was considered to be good.

The transparency, usefulness and management of the VDCs were also rated on a five-point scale, where 1 was labelled "very good," and 5 was labelled "very bad." The transparency of VDCs was overall rated to be good, as evidenced by the median (2). Respondents from South Darfur considered transparency to be good (2), while those from South Kordofan considered it to be very good (1). VDCs were considered to be good on average, with respondents from South Kordofan considering it to be very good (1). Perceptions of the VDC management differed considerably. Overall, it was considered to be good (2). However, respondents in South Darfur considered it to be neutral (3), while in South Kordofan respondents considered it to be very good (3). That the VDCs were rated so positively seems to contrast the earlier finding regarding management of water sources in South Darfur. However, taking into account the positive rating for VDCs provides additional evidence for the hypothesis that management of water sources was rated negatively in South Darfur due to low access and availability of water instead of actual bad management.

The qualitative information present more nuanced information. The VDCs in South Darfur appeared to be working well, with respondents indicating that the committees had indeed implemented an umbrella approach towards coordinating the various activities and intervention that take place in the villages. In-depth qualitative information about the VDC's functioning in South Kordofan was not collected due to the restrictions imposed on the data collection teams.

"Before CIS came there was no development committee. CIS established this committee in Nyala, and it consists of about fifteen members. These members made subcommittees in different fields, like health, education, agriculture, and so on. We then prepared the constitution and it was approved, so all people here know the development committee and know its duties and responsibilities. So now for example, if anything new comes up that has to do with farming, the agriculture committee which consists of farmers, arranged a meeting to discuss these things. It's very useful for the farmers, and if any farmer needs service or help, they can go directly to the committee."²⁸

The VDCs also played a role in addressing contentious issues between farmers and pastoralists, functioning as a platform at which issues such as competition over natural resources were discussed.

"Since all farmers are members of the farmer committee, everyone has their own opinion on different things that come up during the meetings. Farmers and pastoralists have to cooperate because we both need the other to survive. For us, the pastoralists are essential."²⁹

Overall, the activities implemented by CIS in order to alleviate pressure on, and competition over natural resources through community-managed approaches and intermediate technologies can be considered successful, even though the lower rating for water management. The key stakeholders and rival groups reported change in the key areas, and the activities were clearly designed to achieve the objectives, and has such largely achieved its purpose to decrease conflict. The community-based approaches also improved and encouraged non-violent forms of conflict resolution and power, as local community members were empowered to mediate local conflicts themselves. Even on the short-term over the course of the programme, improvements in relations among the various groups are already noticeable. With the exception of unknown pastoralists from afar, key actors have been addressed, and differences in ethnicity taken into account, such as the implemented small-scale farms for women. Overall, it can be concluded that CIS largely successfully achieved its objective.

3.4.3 Exploring, diversifying and strengthening potential economic opportunities

The third envisioned outcome of the intervention focused on exploring, diversifying and strengthening the potential economic opportunities in the target areas. In order to do to this, CIS conducted value chain studies, assessed conflict and market dynamics, and attempted to incorporate beneficiaries into the value chain.

"CIS implemented various projects such as modern agriculture, micro irrigation, providing donkey carts to small merchants, training women in micro businesses, training youth to produce building materials, micro finance for small merchants as start-up capital – this is all part of what CIS has provided to our community.

These activities reached the people who needed these activities, but also showed the community the possibilities of working in other areas of life instead of working only in one season. It showed them they

²⁸ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

²⁹ FGD with Farmers. 4 March 2017. Hashaba, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

can work in the industrial field or providing services, and indeed, these projects employed the youth more than the eldest people.”³⁰

Beneficiaries in both states recognized the importance of skills trainings provided to women and youth as an opportunity to diversify their livelihoods. However, several beneficiaries also expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of follow-up after the trainings, something that could be addressed in future programming. For example, beneficiaries expected additional support in gaining access to start-up capital, and felt disappointed when they found out they would not receive such funds.³¹ However, the lack of such funds itself is not the main issue, as village- and loan saving associations (VSLA) have been designed to provide community members with such funds. Instead, more attention could be drawn to strengthening the link between the VSLAs and the skills trainings in order to ensure the necessary synergy and to link the different parts of the employment/entrepreneurship chain. On the other hand, VSLA members reportedly used the loans for purchasing non-business assets, such as furniture for their home, instead of investing in productive assets. If this indeed happens on a large-scale, future programming could be improved by collecting information on the purpose for which VSLA members take out loans. Expenditure could then be steered towards productive assets with additional coaching or business advice.

Case Story

My name is Zahra and I am forty-five years old. I was born and raised in Dekkma. I went to school, but in middle school my scores were not high enough to continue and I dropped-out. I have always felt bad about this since I only missed the passing grade by a few points. For a long time, I couldn't stop thinking about how my future could have been if I had continued education.

I am married and I have seven sons and one daughter. My daughter does not live with us, but both my parents do. In order to provide for our household we work on the local market. I am a tea seller and during the autumn I also work as a farmer. In the past, life was really hard since I was not able to make a real profit from my tea business.

My life changed drastically, though, when CARE decided to help me with my tea business. They noticed that I did not have enough equipment to serve all my potential customers and decided to provide me with chairs and equipment to make tea and coffee. Thanks to these materials, the number of customers is served increased significant, as well as my profit.

I have been able to generate around 600 SDG a month. During the autumn, I still work on a farm and produce food for my household. The remainder of the year, I use my work as a tea maker to generate income. I play an important role in my household since my income accounts for about 80 percent of our total household income. It makes me feel proud I achieved this.

³⁰ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

³¹ Team Leader Observations, South Kordofan.

3.4.4 Ensuring youth from both sexes have increased skills and access to economic opportunities

The fourth result was geared towards enhancing the skills and access to economic opportunity to youth from both sexes. The skills were aimed to meet demand in local and regional markets. CIS implemented this activity by initiating VSLAs and offering business development services and vocational training to young people.

"There is no employment to really speak of, only temporary employment with low salary. The best way to survive is to travel to big cities where there are chances. Men, women and youth of both genders work as farmers in autumn. The youth do not have enough resources to build their lives compared to the older people who had access to land. (...) Sometimes youth decides to stay unemployed because it is not worth the effort."³²

First, the assessment about the type of businesses respondents ran. Overall, 56.93% (n=226) of respondents sold food items that they had produced themselves, with a mean age of 38 years old, and a median of 35. 71.79% (n=285) ran a small business that provided their household with income, whose mean age was 38 years old. Finally, 14.86% (n=59) received income from other sources such as remittances. Their mean age was 41 years old. Especially the second category suggests that there are few young people who run their own business. In fact, only 8.33% (n=6) was 25 years old or younger, and 62.50% (n=45) ran a small business based on selling crafts or handiworks.

In addition to this, the random household survey also inquired about respondents who have attempted to access microfinance or seed capital, which only 3.78% (n=15) did. This subgroup is limited due to the limited sample, and it is recommended that a stratified sample be employed during the next observation in order to capture the effects of this particular activity more clearly. For example, of these respondents, only one person attempted to obtain funds through the VSLA, rendering the particular findings in this area non-representative. Keeping this in mind, the following paragraph discusses the findings.

The majority of respondents who tried to loan money tried to do so by asking family or community members (40.00%, n=6), formal banks (33.33%, n=) or dedicated microfinance institutions (13.33%, n=2). The intent of those attempting to obtain capital or credit were clear: 53.33% (n=8) tried to start a new business, while 33.33% (n=5) tried to expand an existing business by making long-term investments, and 13.33% (n=2) wanted to expand an existing business by purchasing short-term assets such as supplies or stocks.

Of those who applied for such finance, 60.00% (n=9) was unsuccessful, with reasons being a lack of viable business strategy or proposal (55.56%, n=5) or low credit or no prior credit history (33.33%, n=3). After being denied, 55.56% (n=5) respondents abandoned the business idea altogether, while 33.33% (n=3) reapplied, and was denied a second time, and one person was able to obtain credit from an alternative source. Those who were successful currently run businesses such as service provision or selling handiworks or craft, coffee or tea, or other non-food items. Overall, 11.59% (n=46) of respondents indicated they had gained paid employment over the past two years, of whom 52.17% (n=24) still held this employment. This employment was largely in the agricultural sector (52.17%, n=24) and service provision (32.61%, n=15).

Respondents were then asked about specific training that they, or their household members may have received from CIS over the past two years. Among all respondents surveyed, 19.65% (n=78) had received

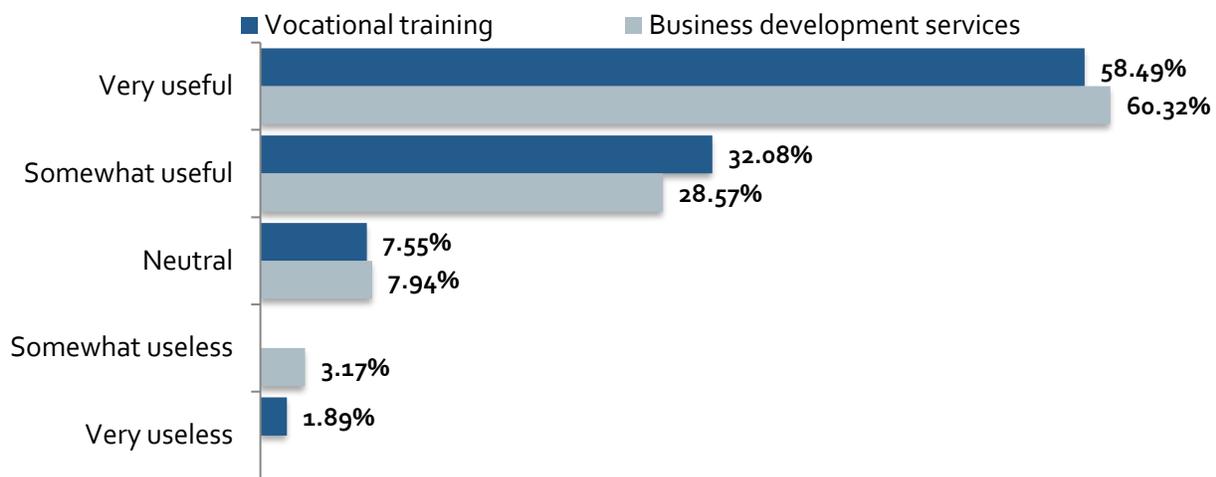
³² FGD with Youth. 6 March 2017. Bubul, Alsalam, South Darfur, Sudan.

training in crop production, 10.58% (n=42) in livestock production and support, 13.35% (n=53) had received vocational training, and 15.87% (n=63) had received business development services.

"People who received services and were involved in the projects are now a bit better off, and they can support themselves. The largest change that happened to them is in their thinking. They think more about the future now, how to increase their capital and expand their farms."³³

The majority of respondents who had received vocational training or business development services considered it to be very useful (58.49%, n=31 and 60.32%, n=38, respectively). The majority of respondents also indicated that the trainings had a positive effect on their ability to generate an income. For example, of those who received vocational training, 52.83% (n=28) was not much more able to support their family, and 35.85% (n=19) was somewhat more able. For those who received business development services, this was 47.62% (n=30) and 42.86% (n=27), respectively.

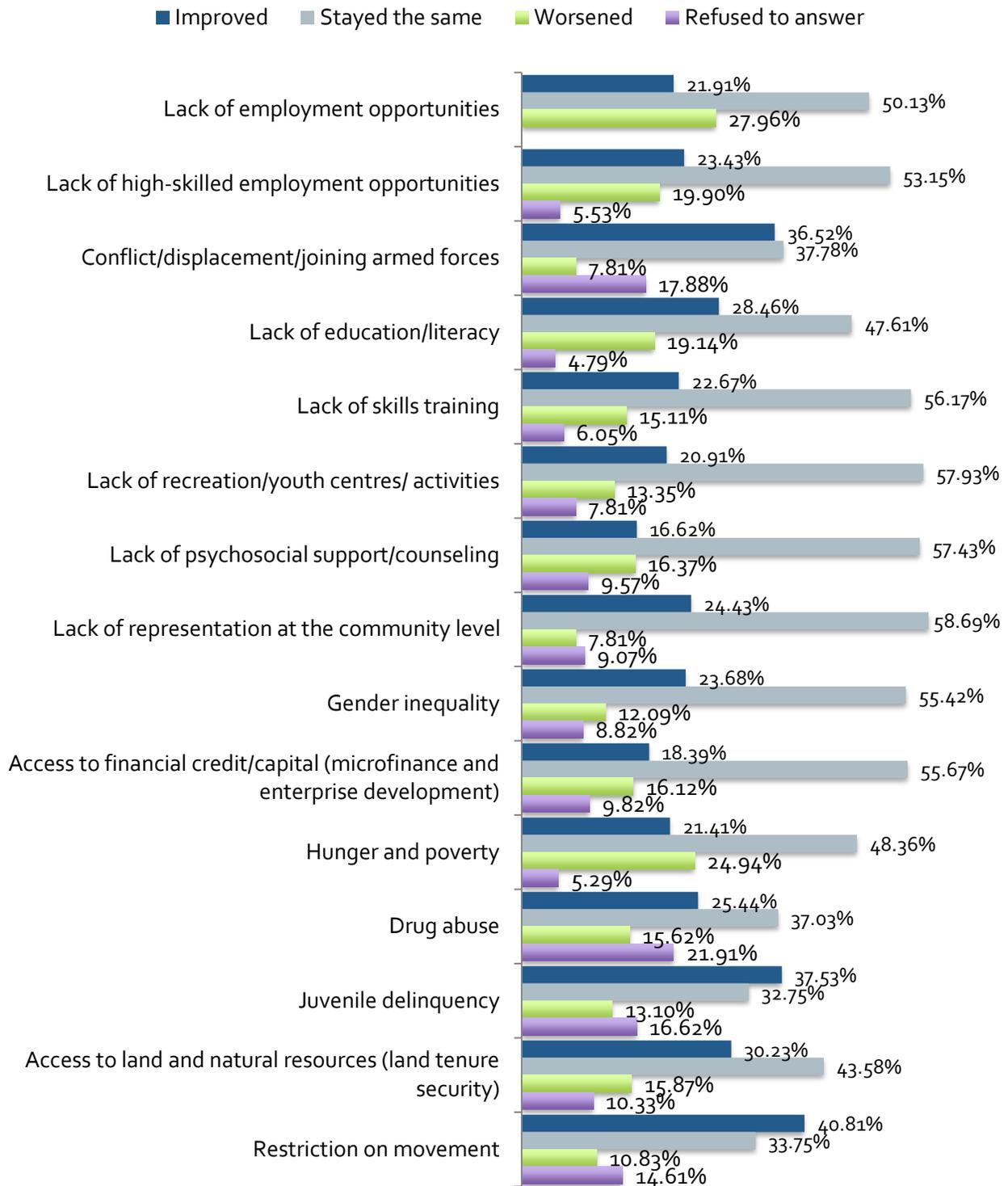
Figure 10: Perceived usefulness of vocational training (n=53) and business development services (n=63)



Respondents were subsequently asked about the changes in the challenges that youth in their community face. CIS targeted the issues of unemployment and equal representation on the community level in CBOs. However, perceived improvement in these areas is limited. Only 21.91% (n=87) of the respondents felt that the employment opportunities for youth had improved. The areas wherein respondents considered the largest changes to have happened was the security situation: 40.81% (n=162) thought restriction on movement had improved, while 36.52% (n=145) thought conflict and the risks of youth joining armed forces had improved. However, it should be noted that high levels of respondents who refused to answer and socially desirable answers are likely to bias the results.

³³ FGD with Youth. 6 March 2017. Bubul, Alsalam, South Darfur, Sudan.

Figure 11: Perceived changes in youth challenges (n=397)



Youth also discussed the issues they faced. Throughout the evaluation, youth expressed multiple times that they did not feel that their opinions were heard or valued by members of the CBOs, and that they felt that the selection criteria for participation in the activities were not transparent. Instead of opening

participation in the vocational trainings to everyone, local committees, likely made up of community elders or leaders, selected the participants. This is a common phenomenon when choosing to increase local buy-in by closely involving local stakeholders. Despite this, the majority of the respondents still considered the trainings to be very useful (see Figure 10), considering that the benefits of these trainings outweigh these grievances. Improving general consultation, especially with youth, has the potential to improve beneficiary selection and community buy-in.

"We didn't receive any information about the implementation of the project, nothing was announced. Those who were responsible for this did not consider us, maybe because of our age. The members of the committee that deals with the organizations do not tell youth anything about project, before or during implementation.

We're not sure about the committee's responsibilities, but we wish the committee would take us into account, because we have a different opinion that may help or be the solution. The mechanisms of selection people confused us, but we guess it has something to do with having relatives on the committee."³⁴

On the other hand, VDC members who were interviewed stated that there were clear requirements for specific trainings. This discrepancy suggests that the functioning of VDCs varies per location, and that future programming could invest more in transparency, of both the selection criteria, as well as the structure, roles and responsibilities of the VDCs more during the implementation.

"Every activity has requirements for selecting people. For example in the veterinary fields, the selected persons should be able to read and write, the ability to work and serve the community. This person needs to be selected by a community vote. The village development committee works as a consultant and link between the community and the organization. Members of the community work as volunteers and are also selected by a community vote to serve the village."³⁵

3.5 Impact

Impact refers to the intended and unintended positive and negative impact produced by the intervention. It differs with effectiveness as impact refers to long-term effects, including behavioural changes among the target beneficiaries.

Table 6: Impact - Guiding Questions

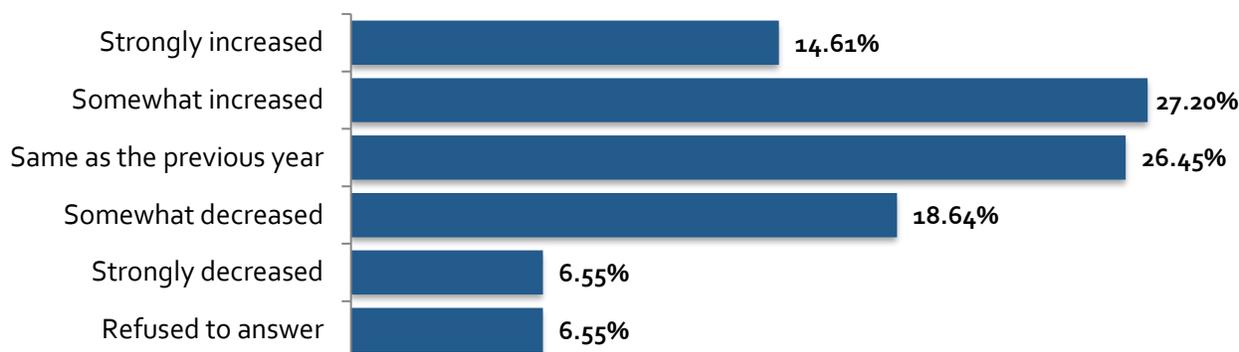
Impact
How has the situation regarding employment changed over time, and what is the contribution of the intervention to the changes? Specifically regarding communal relations (farmers and pastoralists), market dynamics and youth unemployment?
What changes in attitudes and behaviours can be ascertained?
Has the intervention lead to any policy changes? What are these? What are the effects on the conflict?
Has the intervention lead to any unintended negative effects?
What are the short-term and long-term, immediate and lasting effects of the intervention on the key conflict factors?

³⁴ FGD with Youth. 6 March 2017. Bubul, Alsalam, South Darfur, Sudan.

³⁵ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

As a quantitative measure, respondents were asked about the changes in their household's income over the past twelve months. Overall, respondents stated that their household's income had largely remained unchanged. However, significant differences per state are visible. In South Darfur, respondents on average said it had remained the same (3.37), while respondents in South Kordofan overwhelmingly reported an increase in income (1.79). In fact, in South Kordofan, 36.24% (n=54) reported a strong increase in income, and 53.69% (n=80) reported a small increase in income. In South Darfur, this was 1.61% (n=4) and 11.29% (n=28), respectively. Since more than half of the money spent on income generating activities was spent in South Darfur, this result is unexpected and warrants further examination. A number of factors unrelated to CARE's activities, however, could potentially be responsible for this finding.

Figure 12: Perceived changes in household income (n=397)



However, qualitative data allows for an in-depth exploration of the project's impact on beneficiaries. On the short-term, the intervention has had a considerable effect on communal relations, unemployment, and market dynamics. Established CBOs function as an avenue for communication and conflict dynamics between known pastoralists and farmers have improved. The changes in attitude are mainly a shift from short-term to long-term thinking, with beneficiaries demonstrating more awareness of market dynamics, and to some degree an entrepreneurial attitude.

"The impact is clearly obvious in the way that the community is now dealing with things and in their way of thinking. You could also say that women now are more independent, because a number of them have been trained in food processing, and have changed the way they do things."³⁶

Community members who had received support also inspired community members who were not selected for participation in certain activities. Formalizing this process of inspiring others through initiatives such as farm extension visits allows the intervention's effect to continue to ripple through the community and amplify its impact.

"The implemented projects had the full attention of everyone, especially the terraces techniques. All the farmers are now talking about the possibility of implementing this technique themselves even with their own funds. Farmers and pastoralists now have enough knowledge about the importance of peace; hence they try to keep growing this understanding. Some of them still try to initiate conflicts though, because they can benefit from it."³⁷

³⁶ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

³⁷ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Although the intervention has not lead to policy changes at this point, it also has not lead to any unintended negative effects. The intervention has had a certain effect on the key conflict drivers. Conflict in South Darfur and South Kordofan stem from fighting between different groups, especially on the border between Sudan and South Sudan. In addition to the displacement that has taken place as a result of the conflict, decreasing pastures have lead to increased tension between pastoralists and farmers. Traditionally, conflicts that arose between pastoralists and farmers were mediated using traditional mediation mechanisms, which CIS has attempted to reestablish. With its intervention, CIS has made significant progress towards addressing the key conflict drives.

By investing in the creation of mutual economic interests, a mutually beneficial relationship between conflicting parties was for the most part established and tensions were to some degree reduced. By initiating the establishment of CBOs to mediate conflicts, mediation venues and techniques are also expected to be cultivated and reinforced over time. In combination with relieving the actual pressure on natural resources by investing in agricultural techniques and livelihoods diversification simultaneously, a long-term, lasting effect is expected. However, the evaluation finds that the mechanism could have made more use of traditional mechanisms such as Jodeia, as it an informal justice mechanism widely accepted through the Darfur and Kordofan states. Using or developing this mechanism may also allow the community to address conflicts that arrive with pastoralists from afar, with whom communities appear to struggle the most. To assess the progress made in this area, additional research and monitoring should be done with farmers and unknown pastoralists who travel from far, as friction between these groups continue to persist. Considering this an area that is still in need of improvement, collection information on these issues will allow to assess the impact of the intervention. Simultaneous assessments of informal mediation techniques such as Jodeia and their use would also allow for insights into potential impact.

3.6 Sustainability

The key question of sustainability is assessing the likelihood of the benefits of the intervention to continue should the implementer or donor leave. This goes beyond financial and environmental sustainability, as it also takes into account the beneficiaries' own capacity to continue the projects and activities established during the intervention.

Table 7: Sustainability - Guiding Questions

Sustainability
What steps have been taken, or are planned, to create long-term processes, structures and institutions for peacebuilding?
Will new institutions (the various committees on the community level) designed to address conflicts survive? Are they being used?
Will hard-won improvements in intergroup relationships persist in the face of challenges?
Are there effective mechanisms and incentives in place to facilitate the implementation of agreements and structures?
Has the effort developed a strategy with local partners or actors that enables them to build or continue their own peacebuilding initiatives?
Have spoilers been addressed?
Are there sufficient mechanisms or institutions in place that deal meaningfully with any grievances?

CIS took various steps towards ensuring that the hard-won progress will last. This included training community members to provide services and establishing CBOs geared towards providing beneficiaries with technical knowledge and information. The establishment of the VDCs is a promising mechanism to streamline the various interventions that take place in the community, and to amplify the voice and input of the beneficiaries, as the VDC can function as the main organ communicating with the implementing actor. Although beneficiaries have commented on the lack of transparency or clear communication regarding the roles and responsibilities of the VDCs, the VDCs generally appear to be accepted and appreciated in the communities. With additional efforts geared towards ensuring the diversity, especially regarding the inclusion of youth, the VDCs are likely to become a long-term structure to manage community-level issues in general, and conflict- and peace related matters in particular.

"CIS trained us as the village development committee members, and now we try to explain to the community about how to act with various activities and the importance of peace. If it has been decided that a project will take place in this activity, we explain to the community what this will do, and how it will help them. Because the community was considered in this decision, we see much more acceptance, and cooperation during the implementation."³⁸

"Last year there was a meeting between farmers and pastoralists. Most of the various conflicts were discussed and a strategy was made to deal with this in the coming years. As a result, the number of conflicts has decreased."³⁹

On a project-specific level, beneficiaries were generally satisfied with the trainings they received, and appeared to have confidence in their skills and ability to run the initiatives. On a more technical level, CIS could consider revising its strategy for the construction of terraces and possibly earth dams, as they were currently constructed with soil rather than alternatives such as clay soil. The reported breakdown of donkey carts suggests that the decisions for the materials used should be re-examined to ensure longevity of the activity.

"Of course people trained in VSLA are now able to manage this programme themselves, as can the farmers who have learned new techniques to increase their production. Committee members can also manage their issues, even after CIS leaves."⁴⁰

Finally, one aspect of conflict dynamics would benefit from being directly, and explicitly addressed in future programming. While relations between the sedentary communities and nomadic pastoralists are being improved with the various programme activities, unknown pastoralists traveling from far have the potential to act as spoilers in a fragile peace context.

As such, the challenge is not dealing with known pastoralists, but with the unknown pastoralists. Addressing conflicts with known pastoralists, with whom rival groups may be bound by mutual economic interest, social interactions, or simply have familiarized themselves throughout the years of seasonal migration, does not appear to be a key issue. With known pastoralists, a certain level of basic mutual understanding has been reached that can sustain peaceful relations.

³⁸ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

³⁹ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

⁴⁰ KII with VDC Member. 5 March 2017. Tabafatou, Kass, South Darfur, Sudan.

Instead, there appears to be a programmatic gap where these specific relations should be addressed. It is in this specific area that CIS has the potential to realize further change. For example, considering the well-known and widely accepted informal Jodeia system, individuals from different ethnic backgrounds and states should be able to practice this mechanism regardless of where they are. Using this system as the foundation for mediating conflicts between farmers and unknown pastoralists could be a useful mechanism for addressing conflicts. In combination with additional reaching out to pastoralists, especially in the areas of agricultural training and education, as well as in general, can mitigate the risk of these individuals acting as potential spoilers.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Criteria	Conclusion	Recommendation
Relevance	<p>CIS carefully identified key issues and conflict drivers, and activities were designed to structurally address the relevant causes of conflict in South Darfur and South Kordofan. Land rights, market dynamics and (youth) unemployment were among the key issues underpinning the theory of change.</p> <p>CIS employed a strategically diverse set of highly relevant activities to address these issues at the grassroots level, cumulating in a holistic approach involving the majority of stakeholders.</p> <p>Beneficiaries echoed the relevance of the trainings and support received, but pastoralists emphasized they were also in need of agricultural support.</p> <p>Market rehabilitation activities were also relevant to improving mutual economic interests between rival groups, as well as improving supply of items, and in turn prices, food security and diversity. However, some stalls were underused, or reportedly sublet to other community members. Other beneficiaries reportedly received donkey carts while they did not own a donkey or the capital necessary to buy a donkey.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoralists' needs should be assessed during future programming. As pastoralists are also forced to adapt their lifestyle due to climate change and continuing conflict, they may have a need to cultivate short-term crops. Mapping these needs is recommended to improve service delivery. • Mid-term reports could be used to monitor the use of services received, as changes in the materials used or beneficiaries targeted could still have been made. After initial trials with donkey carts, materials used for its construction could have been adapted. • In addition to more in-depth beneficiary selection for item distribution, follow-up on a set interval of months could have been conducted, for example over the phone. This could inform programming about the relevance of distributed items so far.
Efficiency	<p>Activities were slightly delayed due to external factors, mostly related to the signing of technical agreements with local authorities and other stakeholders. This subsequently led to delays in seasonal activities, for which the window of opportunity had then passed.</p> <p>Overall, CIS efficiently broke up a major peace and conflict issue in digestible modules, with sufficient linkages between the various modules. A multi-pronged approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project documentation did not reveal evidence of clear contingency planning in the event of seasonal delays, and it was unclear how CIS mitigated the impact of delays. For future programming, this should be considered. • Allocating resources for procurement for certain outputs such as donkey carts and market stalls can improve quality for money.

allowed for an efficient complementary effect between the various activities. Building on existing infrastructure rather than starting from scratch, especially in regards to the market infrastructure, is a low-cost efficient approach. As for specific outputs such as donkey carts and market stalls, procurement could ensure higher quality for money.

Effectiveness

Overall, 52.40% (n=208) of respondents believe conflicts between farmers and pastoralists have decreased, and 45.59% (n=181) believe relations between these groups have improved: both indicators suggesting considerable improvements in peacebuilding.

First, activities aimed to improve mutual economic interest between conflict groups lead to increased social interactions. Not only did the market function as a meeting platform, it also led to improved food supply and food security, although respondents noticed price increases. Overall cleanliness of the market had also improved. However, several markets remained small with limited activity, and beneficiaries found alternative use for the items that were distributed to them. Other activities, such as veterinary services, were extremely desired, and demand often superseded the ability and capacity of service providers to meet demand. The establishment of small-scale farms for women from different ethnic groups was also highly successful, as no conflicts were reported. Instead, women were empowered to organize themselves, taught entrepreneurship, and cooperate with others.

Secondly, CIS also alleviated pressure and competition over natural resources by investing in tools to increase amounts of arable land and thus absolute amount of natural resources, as well community-managed

- Respondents who received market stalls were provided training on maintenance and other aspects, but respondents who received donkey carts were not. Providing training on maintenance and repair of non-food items would improve the usefulness and longevity of the items.
- Donkey carts are being used around the village and market, and have allowed beneficiaries to use them for their own household as well as building a service on these items, such as running a delivery service. With further effective allocation of these carts, this can be improved.
- Market stalls are not functioning as intended in several areas. There is both a lack of market activity in absolute terms, as well as an alternative use of the stalls. To improve this, market dynamics and consumer behaviour on the micro-level should be assessed. The practice of beneficiaries renting out their stalls because they do not run businesses, or lack capital to do so, suggest that a rotating system of stalls, or communally owned stall, may be a better system.
- Demand for veterinary services exceeds supply. Although the system of training villagers to provide services to pastoralists is effective and improves relations, community animal health workers could be taught more specialist skills and receive follow-up trainings, from which they can generate additional income and meet demand. It is likely that this financial aspect requires continued support before it functions independently.

approaches to manage disagreements. Both pastoralists and farmers saw improvements in most aspects of natural resource management, for which the Village Development Committees were a strong instrument. Conflicts with unknown pastoralists traveling from far away continue to arise.

Thirdly, CIS sought to explore, diversify and strengthen potential economic opportunities by assessing value chains and market dynamics. Skills trainings were extremely valuable, but certain beneficiaries expected to also be provided with seed capital. On the other hand, loaned funds were not always invested in long-term productive (business) assets, instead frequently being used for furniture etc.

Finally, CIS sought to provide both sexes with skills and access to economic opportunities. Youth employment is a major issue, and the trainings were much appreciated. While some respondents were able to use these skills and turn them into businesses, connection with other activities and follow-up needs strengthening. More importantly, many youth felt they were not included in the discussions held by the VDCs, and that their interests were not represented.

Impact

Regarding impact, the evaluation finds that the intervention has contributed to a change communal relations in the target area. These changes mostly concern changes in attitudes and behaviours, as social relations between rival groups appear to have improved, and is reflected in the outputs in the markets. Household income has generally also improved, allowing for ripple effects such as increased educational attainment for children. On a larger scale, the implementation of agricultural

- Community-based approaches to natural resource management have been successful as long as they concern known pastoralists and villagers. To improve mediation with unknown pastoralists who come from far, it is recommended that mediation be based on widely known traditional methods such as Jodeia.
- To strengthen the effect of vocational training, the link between VSLAs and vocational skills should be strengthened, while VSLA members themselves should be coached on the investment in productive assets.
- Youth skills trainings need to be embedded within the larger economic situation, for example tied to businesses offering apprenticeships or learning opportunities or mentorships. On the other hand, coaching and follow-ups could help transform this new knowledge into better practices.
- Implementing a “train the trainer”-system, wherein beneficiaries can take on a teaching role in their community to teach newly acquired skills to others, can increase impact. By paying it forward, the reach is increased.
- In line with the previous recommendation on the use of Jodeia, the intervention can be made more meaningful and hence increase its impact by

improvements has led farmers to inspire community members who did not receive the intervention. To amplify the long-lasting effects of this impact, CIS relief heavily on sustainable CBOs to continue the intervention. However again, the impact was limited to conflict between farmers and known pastoralists, and did not involve unknown nomadic pastoralists.

employing locally relevant and accepted community-based approaches.

Sustainability

The intervention's sustainability was assessed on two levels: on the strategic level, and on a technical level. On a strategic level, CIS invested in training community members as service providers, while institutionalizing mechanisms for mediation in the VDC. Confidence in their own abilities to run the programme is large. However, such mechanisms are likely to exist even longer if potential spoilers such as unknown pastoralists are involved and addressed.

On a technical level, earth dams and terraces created for farmers are not expected to last many seasons. Adapting the materials for these projects could increase the physical sustainability.

- Mediation techniques and mechanisms must involve unknown pastoralists who travel from far to the villages, but are unfamiliar with local rules. A culturally accepted arbitration system such as Jodeia can function as the basis to mitigate and mediate conflict between these rival groups.
- Terraces and dams can benefit from reinforcement with materials other than soil, such as wood or clay soil. This will allow the structures to function for several seasons and increase their lifespan.

5. Annex

5.1 Case Stories

Sabir is thirty-five years old and lives in the Daba Nayira area. He is married to two wives and has nine children, two of whom are in school. The other seven children are too young for school. In 2010, he and his family moved to Kass due to conflict. His village was burned down as well as the surrounding villages. Sabir suffered a lot and a lot of children died. At some point, Sabir decided to go back. He said he would rather die with dignity than stay displaced forever.

Back in his old village, Sabir started working as a merchant during the summer and as a farmer during the autumn. Sabir was very surprised when CARE decided to support him and 16 others with a crescent terrace since he did not feel he was among the most needy. Two acres were listed for support and the harvest improved significantly. While Sabir used to produce 720 pounds, he now produced 1,680 pounds.

"With the support I have received I will be able to cover all my expenses. I genuinely hope that other people in difficult situations will receive the same help since they need it."

Naeaima is forty-five years old and has seven children. As a child, she never went to school and married at a young age. She considers herself to be very unlucky for that reason. She desperately wants to ensure a better future for her children considering that only two of them are currently going to school. For the remaining five, she does not have the money to pay for their school fees.

Some months ago, luck came Naeaima's way. CARE provided her and nine other members of her community with a water pump. The majority of those, seven, were women. They installed the water pump at an old well and rented some land to farm. CARE, in addition, provided them with seeds for tomatoes, onions and okra.

In order to start farming, all of them had to borrow money, something which they will repay at the end of the season. Currently, the seeds are in the ground and all of them are hoping for the best harvest. The seeds are the only way for them to get out of poverty and rebuilt their lives.

"I will not give up, this project has to be successful. I feel so lucky that CARE selected me for this project. I am always looking for new opportunities to improve my life so that soon all my children will be able to go to school."

Hashim is forty-five years old and has five children, three of whom are in school, and the other two are too young for school. Hashim is a farmer, and works in multiple farms at once. He is well known in the area because of the success he has in farming.

CARE came to Hashim's village and brought water pumps and seeds for the farmers. Both men and women, were divided into five groups, each group consisting of ten people. Right after they received the supplies they started working on the farms. Hashim is responsible for technical issues such as irrigation and monitoring.

Aside from the farming, Hashim has done an investment by himself. He bought two goats. The investment was smart since CARE had started an animal health centre in his village and he would be able to find help for his animals in case they became sick.

"Before I owned a farm, I could not meet all my obligations. Life has become much easier now though. I hope that soon I own a farm that is completely mine."

"I am Mohammed, and I live in Kabous. When I was younger, I used to grow dura and work on different farms to earn money. It was really hard to survive and often I was unable to provide my wife and children with enough food. I have four sons and two daughters and I felt really bad for not being able to send them to school.

CARE decided to support me, something for which I am grateful every day. They provided me with a bakery and equipment. The business started small, but I worked really hard and now I have four people working in my bakery.

I can finally send all my children to school and this is something I will always thank CARE for. I hope that CARE will continue to support those in need, especially youth."

"I am Batool and I am 42 years old. I am married and have four children, three sons and one daughter. My husband has a small business in the market, but he does not make enough to provide for all of us. We send our children to school because the school fees are only 120 or 140 SDG a year. Covering health expenses used to be a problem, but now there is a health centre that provides free medication.

CARE chose us as one of their beneficiaries. They provided us with a donkey cart. As a consequence, we were able to increase our income. My oldest child moves things around on the cart and makes a bit of money that way. Overall, our situation has improved thanks to the donkey cart.

Sadly enough, the donkey cart has broken down. It already broke down four times before but now I am unable to fix it. Unfortunately, the donkey cart is not made from good materials and therefore it breaks quite often. I am thus not sure if our situation will go back to what it used to be.

Despite the fact that the cart is broken, I really appreciate the help I received from CARE. For the future, however, I hope they will provide donkey carts made from better materials."

Forcier

Forcier is a development research firm that operates in challenging post-conflict environments. Established in 2011 in South Sudan, Forcier has invested in developing methodologies and approaches to research that are contextually appropriate and feasible, whilst adhering to international standards for social science research and utilising the latest data collection technology available. Our core services include population and social science research, project evaluations, market assessments for livelihoods and vocational trainings, private sector and market research for feasibility studies, strategic planning and representation, and training and capacity building workshops.



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