

# Partnership for Economic Inclusion Impact Collaborative

## Technical Workshop

June 14-15, 2023

# Testing economic opportunities interventions (and targeting strategies based on gender) in South Sudan

## Country:

South Sudan

## Name of Project:

*South Sudan's Productive Safety Net for Socioeconomic Opportunities Project (SNSOP)*

## Research Team:

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## Operational Team:

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## Government agencies involved:

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) & Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare (MGCSW)

# Background and context

- SNSOP provides **cash transfers** and access to **income generating opportunities** and strengthen the National Safety Net Delivery System
- Third iteration of social protection programs in South Sudan, but it's the **first time** to introduce economic inclusion interventions
- South Sudan's **FCV context** raises unique challenges which required project design to be flexible

# SNSOP has four Components

- 1: Cash Transfers and Complementary Social Measures- LIPW and DIS providing cash transfers for 18 months
- **2: Economic Opportunities: to address the challenge of idle youth, helping them become productive members of their communities**
  - Targets eligible **component 1** households (18-35 years), **50%/50%** male/female
  - Livelihood packages finetuned based on market assessment and tailored to context.
  - Options include life and business skills training, coaching, formation of savings groups, livelihood grant, and linkages to financial services/formation of cooperatives
  - ~12,000 eligible HHs in Juba county (after pilot, expected to be replicated in another county and one refugee location)
- 3: Strengthened Institutional Capacity and Social Protection System
- 4: Project Management, M&E and Knowledge Generation

# Project innovations and scale

The Economic Opportunities interventions will be layered onto cash transfers. The final package will be finetuned after context-specific **market and feasibility assessments** are carried out.

Key Innovations:

- It is one of the few economic opportunities programs in the country that supports **male youth** who are 'idle' due to high unemployment
- It is the first economic inclusion activity **led by Government**, fostering strong ownership and scalability. This also highlights the importance of the learning agenda
- The design is adaptable to urban, rural and refugee/host community settings with the final package being determined only **after in-depth assessments**
- Targeting/selection of beneficiaries (to be assessed by the IE)

# Motivation for the impact evaluation

- **Limited evidence** exists on the effectiveness of economic inclusion programs in **fragile** settings, highlighting the need for rigorous impact evaluations
- The available evidence indicates **challenges** in implementing and evaluating such programs, with a particular lack of strong evidence on the **medium** and **long-term** economic effects
- The evidence on the impact of economic inclusion programs specifically targeted at **youth** is even scarcer, emphasizing the importance of studying and tailoring opportunities for this vulnerable group in fragile settings
- While typical graduation programs target women as participants, there is a lack of evidence that backs the **economic and social rationales** behind that targeting approach creating a need for evidence on **engaging males**

# Main Policy Research Questions

## Overall research question:

- What is the **additional impact** of a substantial investment in economic inclusion programs compared to regular cash transfers in an extremely **resource-scarce and fragile** environment?

## Design-specific question:

- What are the differential economic and social impacts of household **self-selection** relative to traditional **women-only** targeting?

# Eligible population

- South Sudan defines "Youth" as those **aged 18-35**
- The project will target **50%** men and **50%** women in this age range
- SNSOP will target a total of **12,500** cash transfer beneficiaries in **3 Payams** of Juba county: Kator, Juba Town, Munuki
- Component 2 in Juba County: **3,000** economic opportunities beneficiaries
- Additional requirements:
  - Willingness to participate
  - Household dependency ratio  $\geq 3$
  - Literacy and Numeracy



# Mixed Methods

- **Market and feasibility assessments** will be carried out to finetune component 2 specific content (business skills training, coaching, formation of savings groups, livelihood grant, and linkages to financial services/formation of cooperatives)
- Use of **M&E** to track treatment and control (T & C are Comp. 1 Beneficiaries)
- Use Component 1 **registration tool** to elicit participants ranking:
  - Ask for socioeconomic and hhd eligibility information
  - # of eligible Men and # of eligible Men
  - Introduce component 2 to the respondent
  - Ask for nominated participant
    - Name, age, gender, relationship to hh head (maybe: current occupation?)
  - Loop until gender of additional potential participant != gender of first-listed potential participant
  - Nudge if no “!= gender” is nominated
  - Randomize when number of eligible members is asked for?

# Design (TBA):

HH with...	Control	Treatment, Participant = 1st choice	Treatment, Participant = 2nd choice
2+ eligibles, M preferred [35%]	900	1,050 / 750	450
2+ eligibles, F preferred [35%]	600	600	0 / 300
1 eligible only (M) [15%]	450	450	
1 eligible only (F) [15%]	450	450	
Total	2,400	3,000	

Required: 50% Female 50% Male

**Open Question:** 0 vs 300, 2nd choice under F preferred?

# Key Outcomes

*Survey tools will follow the PEI Measurement Framework for Quantitative Surveys, focusing on the following domains:*

Outcome Domain	Level	Source
Consumption	Household	Baseline, midline, and endline
Food security	Household	Baseline, midline, and endline
Assets and finances	Household	Baseline, midline, and endline
Income & Businesses	Household & Individual	Baseline, midline, and endline
Migration	Individual	Baseline, midline, and endline
Empowerment & Agency	Individual	Baseline, midline, and endline
Well-being	Individual	Baseline, midline, and endline
Gender-based violence	Individual	Baseline, midline, and endline

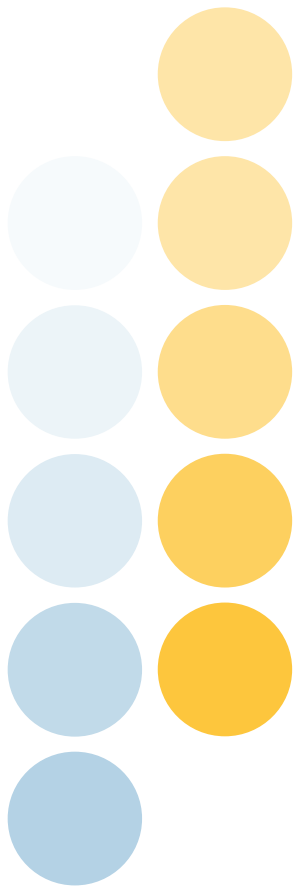
# Implementation challenges

- South Sudan's FCV context is challenging due to constant **volatility** and vulnerability to shocks. This includes economic and climate-induced shocks
- While the security situation in Juba is much improved, it remains **fragile** and security concerns may create mobility constraints
- The low-capacity context means that **extensive support** is required to ensure that the intervention is implemented in line with the design and that the randomization is respected (Compliance)
- Extremely high **costs** of operating in this context
- Recurrent implementation **delays** affect the IE timeline

# Timeline and next steps

Activity	Date
Project Launch	August 2023
Beneficiary targeting and registration	September 2023
Baseline	October 2023
Component 1 and 2 implementation begins	November/December 2023
Midline	January 2024
Endline	January 2025
Follow-up survey (budget dependent)	January 2026

The timeline above assumes that SNSOP implementation in Juba will last 2 years.



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# Thank you!



## PEI FUNDING PARTNERS



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